

Hafa Adai!

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JKPL hosts birthday surprise for junior volunteer. **PAGE 6**

75¢

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SALVAGE OPERATION

Work to remove the derelict fishing vessel *Lady Carolina* from the Saipan Lagoon has started. The Saipan-based environmental organization called Pacific Coastal Research & Planning is overseeing the project, which is expected to take about two months. The *Lady Carolina* is an 83-foot, 54-ton, steel-hulled fishing vessel that has been grounded in the lagoon since August 2015 during the onslaught of Typhoon Soudelor. The vessel was further damaged during Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018. Photo taken by licensed commercial drone pilot BJ Eddy. Check out his YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/mydiGis7xwY>.

BJ EDDY

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:30pm, May 25, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population
Fully Vaccinated: **53%**

Pfizer/BioNTech

Initiated: **21,485**

Fully Vaccinated: **19,304**

Moderna

Initiated: **3,759**

Fully Vaccinated: **2,852**

Janssen

Fully vaccinated: **258**

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,136	5	8,141
Recovered	7,927	3	7,930
Active	67	5	72
Deaths	139	0	139
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			163,848

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	181	0	181
Traced via Travel Screening	145	0	145
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			26,131*
Days since last community transmission			69

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

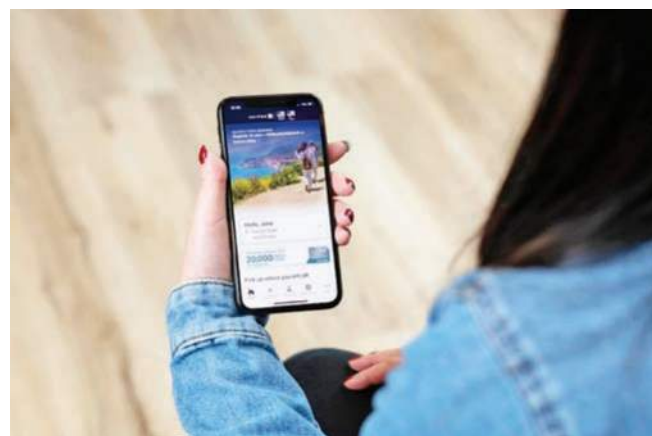
\$5.9M awarded to 7 ex-IPI workers

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglo-na has entered a \$5.91-million default judgment in favor of seven Chinese construction workers who were subjected to forced labor while working on the casino-resort project of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC on Saipan.

The court's judgment awarded \$2.95 million in compensatory damages to the seven plaintiffs and an additional \$2.95 million in punitive damages. The court then subtracted the amounts recovered from earlier settlements between the plaintiffs and subcontractors on the project.

See **\$5.9M** on **Page 4**

United offers free flights for a year to encourage COVID-19 vaccination



UNITED

Under the terms of the "Your Shot to Fly" sweepstakes, any new or existing MileagePlus® member who uploads their vaccination records to the airline's mobile app or website between today and June 22 can be entered to win a roundtrip flight for two, in any class of service, to anywhere in the world United flies.

United Airlines is offering its loyalty program members the chance to win free flights for a year's worth of travel to encourage more people to get their COVID-19 vaccination.

Under the terms of the "Your Shot to Fly" sweepstakes, any new or existing MileagePlus member who

uploads their vaccination records to the airline's mobile app or website between today and June 22 can be entered to win a roundtrip flight for two, in any class of service, to anywhere in the world United flies. United will give away 30 pairs of tickets throughout the

See **UNITED** on **Page 4**

CNMI VACCINATION RATE:

Behind Guam but ahead of other insular areas

By JUSTINE NAUTA
jnauta14@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI's vaccination rates is slightly behind that of Guam, but ahead of other U.S. insular areas, according to an analysis by the Kaiser Fam-

ily Foundation, or KFF, an American non-profit organization that focuses on health care issues facing the nation, as well as U.S. role in global health policy.

Citing the KFF analysis, Delegate Gregorio Kilili

Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) shared in a Facebook post a report that says the CNMI's vaccination rate is slightly behind Guam but has progressed further than other U.S. insular areas. This includes Puerto

See **BEHIND** on **Page 4**

Tonight's show: A supermoon and an eclipse

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Sally of As Perdido has dusted the chairs in the patio and taken the binoculars out of the closet to get ready to watch the lunar

eclipse that will start tonight between 9pm and 9:30pm. Aside from experiencing a natural wonder, she wants to make tonight an educational journey for her children. Elsewhere on island, some people

are going to run in the jungle in hopes of glimpsing the eclipse on a trail.

These and many other things that people plan to do tonight are not an indication of

See **ECLIPSE** on **Page 4**

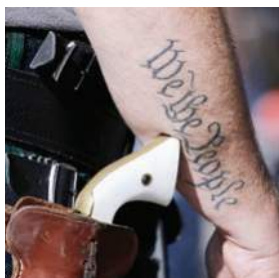
INSIDE



BUSINESS

Your quest for bargains ends at Bargain Center along Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa.

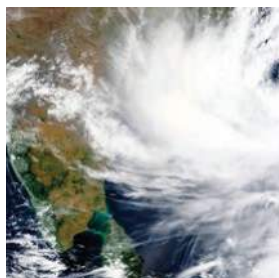
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NATION

Texas lawmakers approved a law allowing people to carry handguns without a license.

PAGE 12



ASIA

Tens of thousands of people are evacuated in India to escape a powerful storm.

PAGE 13



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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

US District Court swears in 17 new US citizens



Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, left, and the U.S. Department of Veteran Health Administration's Ruth Coleman pose for a photo with the new United States citizens in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Monday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

Seventeen people were sworn in as U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Monday, which had Ruth Coleman, administrative specialist and coordinator for the U.S. Department of Veteran Health Administration, as the guest speaker.

The new American citizens are Gilda E. Abalos, Delia A. Acera, Angela V. Aldan, Pipit S. Ball, Charlie A. Borja, Ryan John M.L. Cabrera, Kristine A.D. Galang, Shanjib K. Halder, Ruel Q. Ibarra, Nolie R. Labadan, Grace P. Moran, Renea D. Raho, Norman A. Redor, Jeremiah R. Rother, Shyaralyn L. San Nicolas, Nenita C. Ta, and Roel G.C. Vinluan.

In her speech, Coleman said

that "migrants and refugees revitalize and renew America," and urged the new Americans to do good for themselves, know the communities they live in, and get involved and volunteer so that they and the community can grow and thrive economically.

It was Immigration Services Officer Patricia Phelan who presented the new U.S. citizens to the court.

Coleman shared that Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has previously tried to get her as a guest speaker for naturalization ceremonies for many years, but was unable to attend due to the busy nature of her work. "Finally I accepted [the offer to be guest speaker], and I can say that it was a privilege and a great honor to have done it; I'm very grateful. We welcome our new citizens," said Coleman.

Atalig: Administration will share with the Legislature spending plan on ARPA funds

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig said the Torres-Palacios administration wants to share with the Legislature its priorities and spending plan on the American Rescue Plan Act funding.

In response to inquiry about ARPA during a radio press briefing last Friday, Atalig said they received the \$481,876,521 last May 17, and will soon be meeting with the Legislature.

"We want to work with the Legislature and share what our priorities are and what are some of the legislators' concerns on how they want us to prioritize these funds. We need to work together to benefit our Commonwealth," he said.

A House bill that seeks to give the Legislature appropriation powers over the ARPA money is currently with the Senate Committee on Fis-

cal Affairs.

Atalig said Friday they received the CNMI's full allocation of the ARPA funds last May 17. He said the process of receiving the funds started before the funds were even available. He said his team worked extremely hard to get everything set up and prepared prior to that May 10 deadline for U.S. Treasury to put out guidelines.

"And so we had everything prepared, ready to go. So as soon as we received the guidelines, we submitted our request for [the drawdown of] our allocation," he said.

Atalig said they were happy to receive a note that their request had been accepted, and that the Commonwealth will be expecting funds four days later. "And when we did that, we received it over the weekend and confirmed on Monday [May 17] by the Bank of Guam in our account. So

See MANGLONA on Page 4



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Court approves psych assessment for alleged meth dealer

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has granted Dwight Lee DLG Aldan's unopposed motion for a psychiatric evaluation.

In an order last May 21, Manglona said the court agrees that a psychiatric assessment for Aldan is warranted based on what both parties have presented thus far.

The court order further states that the involved agencies—the U.S. Marshals Service, the U.S. Probation Office, and the CNMI Department of Corrections—will schedule an expedited appointment for the psychiatric assessment, and that Aldan will be transported to the Family

Care Clinic of the Commonwealth Health Center for this purpose. Once there, a licensed psychiatrist at the Family Care Clinic will perform an assessment “that must be tailored to determining whether Aldan is a danger to himself, others, or the community.”

The court also acknowledged what Aldan's lawyer, Robert T. Torres, earlier stated in his motion filing that Aldan's mental competency “is not at issue.”

The results of the assessment will be provided to Aldan through Torres, who will also submit the results to the U.S. Probation Office to be filed under seal.

Aldan's next appearance in court was last May 24 for his

detention hearing.

A grand jury had indicted Aldan with one count of possession with intent to distribute more than 50 grams of methamphetamine last May 17 and an arrest warrant for Aldan was issued the same

day. Aldan was then arrested in As Lito last May 18.

In the court order filed last May 21, Manglona acknowledged the United States' three reasons for Aldan's detention: (1) detention would ensure Aldan's appearance before the court, (2) his detention ensures the safety of persons and the

community, and (3) the two previously mentioned reasons are “in force” because of “the rebuttable presumption that Aldan's offense carries a maximum term of imprisonment for 10 years or more per the Controlled Substances Act.”

According to Torres, Aldan allegedly “threatened to harm

himself and law enforcement officers effecting the arrest” by holding a knife to his throat and threatening self-harm as well as making verbal threats to law enforcement. After the law enforcers calmly negotiated with Aldan, he surrendered the knife and submitted to being arrested.

USA Fanter Corp., IPI submit lists of potential witnesses in defamation suit

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Construction firm USA Fanter Corp. and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC have both filed their initial disclosures on May 25 in the U.S. District Court for the NMI as part of the proceedings in USA Fanter's defamation lawsuit against IPI.

USA Fanter originally filed a complaint against IPI on Feb. 24, 2020, with then USA Fanter lawyer Samuel I. Mok citing an allegedly libelous and defamatory press release that IPI published in local newspapers on Dec. 19, 2019.

After multiple lawyer substitutions by both parties since 2020, USA Fanter is now represented by Colin M. Thompson and IPI by Tiberius D. Mocanu from the Law Offices of Stephen Nutting LLC.

According to a legal definition found online, an “initial disclosure” is a requirement under the federal law that requires both parties to make known (1) the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of persons likely to have relevant and discoverable information, (2) a copy or description of all relevant documents, data compilations, and tangible items in the party's possession, custody, or control, (3) a damages computation, and (4) any relevant insurance agreements.

USA Fanter submitted six individuals who are “likely to have discoverable information”: USA Fanter president Guocao Qian, USA Fanter consultant Antonio Muna, *Saipan Tribune* editor Jayvee Vallejera, *Marianas Variety* reporter Emmanuel Erediano, IPI onsite engineer Harry Wong, and IPI chief financial officer Ed Chen.

IPI submitted seven: IPI executive vice president Eric

Poon, author of *Saipan Tribune's* Dec. 19, 2019 press release “John Doe,” Erediano, Michael Ernest, who is lawyer for the executive director of the Commonwealth Casino Commission, CCC chair Edward Deleon Guerrero, USA Fanter president Qian, and IPI engineer Harry Wong.

The contentious Dec. 19, 2019 press release appears to have been removed from both *Saipan Tribune* and *Marianas Variety's* online archives. An article in the *Saipan Tribune* archives that was published on Dec. 20 2019, states that USA Fanter “strongly denies all falsehoods alleged by the IPI statement” and finds all of IPI's accusations “ridiculous.” The author then listed the alleged facts surrounding USA Fanter's previous dealings with IPI and IPI's failure to pay for a contracted project in full.



NEW GRADUATE

Congratulations to Angel Chun-gi W. Santos on your graduation from Kagman High School! The youngest of the Chungithai fam is ready for success! We love you and we are truly proud of your achievements.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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School Year 2021 — 2022

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High-speed chase ends in wanted man's arrest

Police arrested a man wanted for a slew of alleged crimes Monday morning in Koblerville, but not before leading them in a high-speed car chase that started in Garapan and ended in Koblerville.

According to a press release from the Department of Public Safety, at about 10:41am on Monday, DPS officers saw wanted suspect Don Pangelinan Sanchez Jr. aboard a black sedan in Garapan. Police attempted to conduct a violator stop, to no avail.



Don P. Sanchez Jr.



John Carlo G. Sanchez

The dark sedan picked up speed and led police to Koblerville.

While in Koblerville, the driver of

the sedan switched to the oncoming lane before veering back into the eastbound lane, hitting a police car in the process. Police managed to stop the vehicle before ordering the occupants out of the vehicle.

The passenger of the sedan, Don Pangelinan Sanchez Jr., was arrested pursuant to an arrest warrant issued on April 12, 2021, for allegedly receiving stolen property, firearms owners identification requirement, removal of a firearms serial number,

\$5.9M

From Page 1

MCC International Saipan Ltd. Co. and Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC. That amounted to \$3.86 million in compensatory damages and \$7.72 million in punitive damages.

The workers—Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Qingchun Xu, and Duxin Yan—sued IPI, Gold Mantis, and MCC over various violations, including human trafficking.

In an order Monday, the court described IPI's mistreatment of the workers as "appalling" and noted that "IPI was the driving force" behind the "egregious conditions" faced by the plaintiffs, all "while benefiting from" that exploitation.

Specifically, the plaintiffs paid high recruitment fees to go from China to Saipan based on false promises of high wages and good conditions. After arriving, the plaintiffs regularly worked over 12 hours per day, without rest, and sometimes performed 24-hour shifts. They were paid below the minimum wage, or sometimes nothing at all, and housed in unsanitary, overcrowded dormitories. The defendants arranged for the plaintiffs to enter Saipan as "tourists" instead of under a lawful temporary work visa,

took away their passports, instructed them to hide when government officials came to inspect the worksite or dormitories, and refused to take them to the hospital when they suffered injuries. A supervisor allegedly threatened to kill the workers if they complained or disobeyed him. The casino also denied a federal safety inspector access to the worksite, despite reports of a high number of injuries.

Compensatory damages were awarded to the plaintiffs for the emotional distress suffered while being subjected to forced labor as well as any lost income and pain and suffering caused by the physical injuries they sustained. The court found that emotional distress compensation of \$425 per day for the time that the plaintiffs were subjected to forced labor was reasonable given "the egregious conditions plaintiffs were forced to work under."

The court awarded \$300,000 in pain and suffering damages to six of the workers, whose injuries included a scalded hand, crushed finger, and partially-severed finger, and \$400,000 to plaintiff Tianming Wang, whose leg was engulfed by flames and who has been unable to work since the 2017 injury.

In awarding punitive damages of \$2.95 million, the court found that "defendants' conduct in this matter as a whole is appalling and IPI played no small part while benefiting from

the endeavor."

Plaintiffs are represented by Aaron Halegua of Aaron Halegua, PLLC, an attorney based in New York City, and Bruce Berline of the Law Office of Bruce Berline, an attorney based on Saipan. Plaintiffs' counsel was also assisted by Times Wang of North River Law PLLC.

In response to the default judgment, Halegua stated, "We are pleased to see that the court recognizes the egregiousness of IPI's conduct and the severity of the suffering that it caused our clients. This is an important decision because eradicating forced labor requires that perpetrators of such abuses face serious consequences."

Berline joined in Halegua's statements and added, "This decision marks a large step forward. IPI has known about the plaintiffs' injuries for years, but has not paid them a penny. Instead, IPI has persistently denied responsibility for the treatment and injuries sustained by these workers who labored tirelessly to build its extravagant casino. We hope that this judgement will force IPI to realize that its past conduct is reprehensible to both the court and the Saipan community, and serve as a catalyst for change."

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

BEHIND

From Page 1

Rico, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"Although most insular areas initially got off to a strong start, they all now lag the rest of America in the percentage of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19," said Sablan.

In an interview with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña, she said 66% of the CNMI's eligible population have already received their first dose. Except for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two inoculations.

With U.S. President Joe Biden setting the goal of getting 70% of U.S. adults to receive at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by July 4, Muña said the CNMI should be able to achieve that by the end of next week.

"President Biden wants 70% of American adults to have their first dose by July 4th. We're way ahead of that [and] we expect to be way ahead of that by July 4th. We expect to meet 70% by the end of next week," said

Muña. The Biden administration projects to see 160 million adults fully vaccinated by Independence Day.

When asked if the CNMI will be able to achieve 85% herd immunity by mid-June—just in time for a planned travel bubble to start—Muña said they hope to do so, but they need more people to get vaccinated.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, as of May 1, every U.S. territory, except for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, has fully vaccinated more than 30% of their eligible populations.

Speaking at the media briefing last Friday, Muña reported that 57% of those eligible to be vaccinated in the CNMI have been fully vaccinated.

Fully vaccinated persons:

- 16-19 years old: 1,240
- 20-29 years old: 3,319
- 30-39 years old: 3,409
- 40-49: 4,526
- 50-59 years old: 5,463
- 60-69 years old: 3,310
- 70-79 years old: 967
- 80+ years old: 208

Quarantine procedures

At the same media briefing, Muña said there is a way for officials to ver-

ify travelers vaccination cards who are coming from Guam to Saipan and from Saipan to Guam.

"We accept Guam's immunization record that has that seal right in the middle, and then for CNMI, we also have a vaccine record that... has a seal and the name of CHCC stamped on the immunization record," said Muña.

To get this, request it via email at info@vaccinatecnmi.com or call (670) 682-7468. This will allow individuals to arrange for a pick-up in person or faxed/mailed to the individual who signs the release form.

"We do encourage those traveling into the CNMI—because one of the extra steps of allowing you to not quarantine—that we verify your record, to make sure that you have been fully vaccinated at least two weeks from your last dose. ... Also we have to verify if wherever you're going to go home to, that those individuals in your household have been fully vaccinated," said Muña.

Muña said those who register ahead of time online will be tested on a rapid, on-arrival test. Muña advised that registration should be done three days before arrival.

possession of a controlled substance and trafficking. He was served the arrest warrant and brought to the Kanoa Resort Alternate Care Site for COVID-19 clearance, before being transported to the Department of Corrections where he was booked and detained.

UNITED

From Page 1

month of June.

In addition, on July 1 United will announce five randomly selected lucky MileagePlus members who have entered our sweepstakes for a grand prize of travel for a year for themselves and a companion—also in any class of service, anywhere in the world United flies.

United remains the only U.S. airline that gives customers the ability to upload COVID-19 testing and vaccination records directly to the airline's digital platforms, including its award-winning mobile app though the airline's Travel-Ready Center. By uploading your vaccine record with United, customers will save time at the airport and be confident they are ready to fly to destinations where showing proof of vaccination is required.

"We're proud to do our part to incentivize people to get their shot," said United CEO Scott Kirby. "Thanks to the vaccine, more and more destinations are opening up for travel—and we know our customers

The driver of the vehicle, John Carlo G. Sanchez, was arrested for traffic violations; the vehicle was impounded. John Carlo G. Sanchez was brought to Kanoa resort for COVID-19 clearance, before being transferred to DOC where he was booked and detained. (*Saipan Tribune*)

are eager to fly. We're excited to give people one more reason to get vaccinated so they can reunite with friends and family or take that long-awaited vacation which all could be just one shot away."

United is giving sweepstakes winners—and all customers—more options to visit dream destinations, as the airline is launching brand-new routes to Croatia, Greece, and Iceland, and resuming flights to Italy, Portugal, Spain and France this summer. The airline is also growing its presence in Africa, with new nonstop flights from New York/Newark to Johannesburg, South Africa starting June 3* (*subject to government approval), complementing recently launched service from Washington, D.C. to Accra, Ghana and seasonal nonstop flights from New York/Newark to Cape Town, South Africa. United will also resume service between San Francisco and Tahiti in June.

The sweepstakes is open to any resident of the United States who is at least 18 years old and a MileagePlus member. For more information and to enter, visit United.com/YourShot-ToFly. (*PR*)

ECLIPSE

From Page 1

crazy things that only happens when there is a full moon. What is special about tonight's eclipse is that the moon will be a supermoon—which means it will be at its closest point as it orbits the Earth. The close distance will make the moon appear 10% larger in the Marianas sky. Also, it's the first lunar eclipse since January 2019 and may be the only lunar eclipse visible in the Marianas for the next years.

A lunar eclipse happens when the Earth moves between the sun and the moon, which blocks the Sun's light from reaching the moon. Tonight's phenomenon is believed to last two hours. It doesn't necessarily mean that the Earth will be engulfed in darkness, like the "Fold" in the Netflix TV series *Shadow and Bone*. Instead, the moon will appear to be red or bright red-orange. Scientists say that the sun's rays are made up of colors that we see in rainbows: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. When the rays of the Sun hit the Earth, most colors are scattered away, leaving red as the only visible color.

In olden days, people harbored superstitious beliefs about lunar eclipses, either as a harbinger of evil or a prophecy coming true. For animals both on land and water, very few facts are known as to what effect a lunar eclipse has on them. However, according to an online website called "The Conversation," nocturnal animals like the owl monkeys in Argentina refrain from hunting for food during a lunar eclipse because their

habitat became darker. It also mentioned that the bright light of a supermoon wakes the geese, causing their heart rate and body temperature to increase in preparation for daytime.

Here on Saipan, marine science technical advisor Lyza Johnston said the full moon is linked to coral spawning. Coral spawning is likened to coral mating. "This happens on corals located anywhere around the islands—inside or outside the lagoons anytime from one to eight days after the full moon in the summers," she said.

"My company, Johnston Applied Marine Sciences, is currently working on a spawning project with marine biologist Kelsey McClellan, local project partners, and volunteers to observe spawning and collect spawn for the Ruth Gates project. We will be going out starting Thursday in hopes of collecting spawn to sexually propagate corals for larger scale restoration efforts," she added.

Sally's next educational journey with her children on the patio or that next fun run in the jungle perhaps will be on June 10, 2021, during a solar eclipse that naturally happens two weeks after a lunar eclipse. Before 2021 ends, expect a partial lunar eclipse on Nov. 19 and a total solar eclipse on Dec. 4.

ATALIG

From Page 2

we're excited," he said.

Atalig earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that the CNMI will get an estimated total of \$507 million in ARPA funding—not \$515 million as was previously estimated.

Atalig: Advanced child tax credit payments out in July

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Starting this July, qualified families are expected to start receiving advanced child tax credit payments, according to Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig.

In response to inquiry about advanced child tax credit during a radio news briefing last Friday, Atalig said they are working hard on that matter as Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is exercising his authority over the payments.

Atalig said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) earlier mentioned that Torres has to exercise his authority so that qualifying families can receive \$300 a month per child for children ages 0-5 and \$250 a month per child for children ages 6-17 as early as this summer and until the end of the year.

MVA meeting on June 1

The Marianas Visitors Authority will hold its semi-annual general membership meeting on June 1, 2021, at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort at 2pm.

Registration will begin at 1:30pm. Details of the Marianas Tourism Resumption Plan will be presented, including COVID-19 protocols and quarantine, airlines, hotels, and other matters.

“Next week’s MVA’s next general membership meeting will provide a detailed overview of how we are moving forward with the gradual resumption of tourism in the Marianas, even as we continue to prioritize community safety,” said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. “We invite all MVA members and non-member businesses to attend this important meeting.”

Due to COVID-19 protocols, seating is limited to one representative per company. RSVP should be made by May 28, 2021, by emailing the MVA Community Projects Division at community-projects@mymarianas.com or calling 664-3200. There is no charge for admission.

The MVA also welcomes new businesses, agencies and individuals who want to actively participate in the Marianas’ top industry as MVA members. Membership is \$100 annually.

Benefits include business listing on the MVA’s

“We are exercising our authority to go ahead and process advanced child tax credit monthly payments starting in July,” he said.

The secretary said they are working hard on getting all the processes in place for that. “We’re excited. We’re very busy,” Atalig said.

Atalig was on Rota when he appeared at the news briefing via Zoom.

He disclosed that on Rota they’re talking to Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and the municipality in terms of portions of the American Rescue Plan Act funding that the CNMI has received.

“We’re excited to put some investments into the other islands outside of Saipan. As a Commonwealth, we want to ensure all our residents benefit from the funding and projects that’s been on hold can start moving,” he said.

language-specific websites in Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and English; opportunities for business brochure distribution at MVA offices in the Marianas and internationally; opportunities to participate in travel and trade shows, sales seminars, and familiarization tours; detailed visitor data through monthly statistics reports; nomination and voting rights for the MVA board of directors; and the opportunity to be a supplier or contractor for the MVA. New and returning members for fiscal year 2021 can register and pay at www.mymarianas.com. **(PR)**

Joey P. San Nicolas
Attorney-at-Law
San Nicolas Law Office, LLC
2nd Floor, Island Commercial Center, Rm. 203
Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai
P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950
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Email: jpsn@sannicolaw.net

Attorney for Petitioner Barbara A. Yamada

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER)
OF THE ESTATE OF) Civil Action
RAYMOND JESSE) No.: 21-0152-CV
AGUON LEON)
GUERRERO,) **NOTICE OF
Decedent.) HEARING AND
CREDITORS) NOTICE TO
CREDITORS**

**TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND
CREDITORS OF: RAYMOND JESSE AGUON LEON
GUERRERO, DECEASED**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of BARBARA A. YAMADA for the issuance of letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the **3rd day of June, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.**, at the **NMI Superior Court, Room 205A**, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@sannicolaw.net.

Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, **RAYMOND JESSE AGUON LEON GUERRERO**, or of his estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 11th day of May, 2021.

Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Honorable Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Honorable Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Department of Public Works (DPW) would like to notify the general public of the 4-Year Federal-Aid Highway Program Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) Amendment-3.

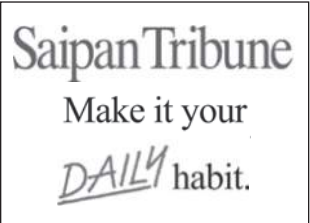
A copy of the plan can be obtained at DPW Technical Services Division Highway Branch for review and comments. Written comments must be submitted directly to DPW TSD Highway Branch, 2nd. Floor Joeten Commercial Bldg., Beach Road (above First Hawaiian Branch) or via email to: lms.dpwtst@gmail.com and ldlcs.dpw@gmail.com no later than June 9, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Should you have any questions regarding DPW TTIP, you may contact Ms. Lorraine S. Villagomez, Highway Administrator or Lauren Sanchez, Federal Program Coordinator at the Department of Public Works TSD Highway Branch at 234-9828.

The following are listed in the TTIP Amendment-3:

I. CNMI DEPARTMENT OF Public Works Technical Services Division HIGHWAY BRANCH 4-YEAR Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan: PROJECTS FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Amendment 3								
DISTRICT	VILLAGE	ROUTE NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF WORK	FY2020 FEDERAL	FY2021 FEDERAL	FY2022 FEDERAL	FY2023 FEDERAL
ALL	ALL	FY	Highway Planning, Technology Transfer & Training Activities Program-	Admin	\$ 975,986.00	\$ 1,417,604.20	\$ 1,931,986.00	\$ 1,644,486.00
ALL	ALL	OJTSS	On The Job Training Support Services	Admin	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 37,500.00
ALL	ALL	NSTI	National Summer Transportation Institute	Admin	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
I	Songsong	10	Route 10 Drainage upgrade from Pinatang Park to CUC Power Plant - Phase II	PE-Design Construction			\$ 1,500,000.00	
I	Dugi	103	Route 103 - Roadway Improvements	PE Design			\$ 300,000.00	\$ 1,750,000.00
II	San Jose	202	Route 202 - Hazard Elimination	PE Design Construction		\$ 500,000.00		
II	San Jose	205	Route 205 - Road and Drainage Improvements	PE Design Construction		\$ 250,000.00	\$ 1,700,000.00	
III	Chalan Laulau - Garapan	30	Route 30 - Chalan Pale Arnold Hazard Elimination	PE ROW Construction CM			\$ 1,000,000.00	
	Chalan Laulau - Garapan	30	Route 30 - Installation of Traffic Light System	PE Design Construction CM		\$ 2,500,000.00		
III	As Perdido	32	As Perdido Road Safety Improvements	PE Design Construction CM-DPW			\$ 200,000.00	
III	Chalan Piao-San Jose	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 2	PE Design Construction CM		\$ 6,000,000.00 \$ 1,000,000.00		
III	Christo Rai - Micro Beach	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 4 - Roundabout	PE Design Construction CM			\$ 1,000,000.00 \$ 200,000.00	
III	Dandan	35	Route 35 - Airport Road Improvement	PE Design Construction CM-DPW	\$ 2,500,000.00			
III	Obyan	302/304	Naftan Road and Flametree Road Improvements	Env. Update Construction CM	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00 \$ 300,000.00		
III	Capitol Hill	310	Route 310 Tapochao Road and drainage Improvements	PE Design Construction CM	\$ 500,000.00		\$ 2,500,000.00 \$ 300,000.00	
III	Gualo Rai	317	Route 317 - Gualo Rai Road and Drainage Improvements	PE Design Construction CM-DPW			\$ 1,500,000.00	
	Island-Wide		Island-Wide Hazard Elimination, Saipan	Construction			\$ 1,050,000.00	
		31/307	Hazard Elimination-Intersection of Chalan Msgr. Guerrero and Chalan Tun Antonio Apa	Construction		\$ 200,000.00		
		34	Kagman Traffic Road Repair	Construction		\$ 250,000.00		
TOTAL OBLIGATION					\$ 4,053,486.00	\$ 15,475,104.20	\$ 13,239,486.00	\$ 3,451,986.00
Estimated Carry Over Prior Fiscal Year TOTAL:					\$ 603,225.00	\$ 20,813,805.99	\$ 9,382,001.79	\$ 185,815.79
FMIS Unobligated Funds (Closed-Out Projects/De-obligated Funds)					\$ 20,220,766.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
OJTSS/NSTI					\$ 57,500.00	\$ 57,500.00	\$ 57,500.00	\$ 57,500.00
Annual Allocation:					\$ 3,985,800.00	\$ 3,985,800.00	\$ 3,985,800.00	\$ 3,985,800.00
TOTAL ALLOCATION (not including other funds)					\$ 24,867,291.99	\$ 24,857,105.99	\$ 13,425,301.79	\$ 4,229,115.79
TOTAL OBLIGATION (not including other funds)					\$ 4,053,486.00	\$ 15,475,104.20	\$ 13,239,486.00	\$ 3,451,986.00
FISCAL ALLOCATION TO HQ not including other funds)					\$ 20,813,805.99	\$ 9,382,001.79	\$ 185,815.79	\$ 777,129.79
TOTAL ALLOCATION - other (ER, Special Funds, etc.)								



Reading challenge offers Wave Jungle pool pass as prize

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is using the online reading program READsquared for its first ever Happy Birthday Reading Challenge. Up for grabs are cash prizes and a family pool pass to the Wave Jungle of the Saipan World Resort.

Using READsquared, an online reading program that tracks reading logs, issues virtual challenges, and awards certificates, the Happy Birthday Reading Challenges are

open to the community to celebrate prospective birthdays. Prospective donors are asked to sponsor reading challenges by providing prizes for the community for successful participants.

This month's Happy Birthday Reading Challenge was sponsored and paid for by the family of birthday celebrant Alexandra Demapan Birnrich, who celebrated her sixth birthday last April 28, 2021.

Birnrich loves the library and loves reading. In honor of Autism Awareness Month and her sixth birthday, she challenges the first 10 children (ages 0-12 years old) who read six books (ebooks, audio books, or physical books from the JKPL) and successfully complete their READsquared virtual reading log will receive \$10. The first 30 children who complete the challenge will be enrolled in a virtual raffle

for one lucky child to receive a family pool pass for four to Saipan World Resort. Offer expires May 31, 2021. Offer

valid only on Saipan. For more information on sponsoring reading challenges or participating in reading events, email

bethdemapanjkpl@gmail.com.

READsquared is available on the library's website at www.cnmlib.org. (PR)

Registration begins June 1 for JKPL's Summer Reading Program

Readers of all ages from early literacy, children, teens, and adults on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are invited to explore the animal kingdom this summer as the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library presents "Tails and Tales" during the 2021 Summer Reading Program.

Package-to-Go activities consists of books, STEAM activities, reading logs, supplies, and more! This summer, teens will participate in virtual Reading Challenges, volunteer opportunities and writing events available at www.cnmlib.org.

The 2021 Summer Reading Program Package-to-Go is open to the first 300 registered participants prioritizing underserved and underprivileged children. There are incredible prizes you can win every week this summer like gift certificates galore, books, and so much more. All programs are free of charge, with weekly completion prizes, reading challenges for most books read, virtual storytimes, and cultural classes. Registration for "Tails and Tales" Package-to-Go begins on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 to June 11, 2021,

ongoing until filled. Package-to-Go distribution will begin Wednesday, June 15, 2021. For more information, call the library at (670) 235-7315/235-7322/7323 (READ) or visit our website at www.cnmlib.org.

JKPL's Summer Reading Program 2021 is made possible by sponsorship support from numerous community partners, donors, private and public organizations. If you would like to donate or sponsor the Summer Reading Program, contact (670) 235- 7315/7322/7323 for Technical Services librarian Beth Demapan. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
One of the winners of the Happy Birthday Reading Challenge, Isaiah Kenshin Leopando, poses with his family.

JKPL hosts birthday surprise for junior volunteer

On April 28, 2021, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library hosted a heartwarming happy sixth birthday surprise celebration for junior library volunteer Alexandra Demapan Birnrich. Joeten-Kiyu Public Library collaborated with the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and Island Apparel to make Birnrich's birthday wish come true.

Birnrich is a beautiful

6-year-old girl who has a chronic medical condition and autism. Last year during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, like most children she spent her fifth birthday at home sheltering in place. While at home, she read books and played with her fire trucks. For her sixth birthday, Birnrich asked her mother, Beth, who works at Joeten-Kiyu Public Library as the Technical Ser-

vices librarian, if it would be possible to visit a real fire truck.

"I thought we were just going to pay a quick visit to the fire station and take a quick picture with one of the fire trucks. Nothing fancy, just low key," said Demapan.

In honor of Autism Awareness Month, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library reached out to DFEMS Commissioner Dennis Mendiola and he and his

team accepted our request.

JKPL then reached out to Island Apparel and shared Birnrich's story to Ed Calvo and his team. Island Apparel proceeded to sponsor beautiful shirts for Birnrich's birthday.

On the day of her birthday, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, under the leadership of Library Director Erlinda C. Naputi, went full force with the Bookmobile, along with Cookie Monster and Elmo, to welcome the birthday celebrant! JKPL set up a beautiful library display, light refreshments, and a beautiful fire truck birthday cake.

"On behalf of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and your library friends, we wish you a happy sixth birthday! We know how much you've had to battle medically, and we wanted to celebrate something truly special to thank you for loving the library and growing up in and at the library. When you were 1 and 2 years old you celebrated your birthday at the library by throwing the first open community birthday celebration, followed by the second community birthday celebration the following year. You shared your cake and gifts with the community. When you were 3 and 4, you were in the hospital undergoing countless medical testing and procedures. When you were 5 you stayed home because of COVID-19. We want you to remember and experience something magical this year!" said Naputi.

With all the pieces in place,

Birnrich and her mother visited the Susupe Fire Station early that Wednesday morning, where Naputi presented her with the printed shirts from Island Apparel honoring Autism Awareness Month in April and fire trucks. Meanwhile, DFEMS welcomed Birnrich with a ride on a fire truck, guided her on how to hold the fire hose, and even how to hold the "jaws of life." They demonstrated proper use of these life-saving tools. They sang to her

Happy Birthday, and awarded her with a beautiful certificate honoring her as an honorary fire fighter for the day.

"On behalf of our family, we humbly thank you all so much! Alexandra definitely feels the love. Thank you all for taking the time to come out here and celebrate Alexandra's birthday surprise. We appreciate all the hard work and effort taken to put this amazing and heartwarming event together," said Demapan. (PR)



TTT Tinian and Rota chapters keep the momentum going

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tasi to Table's Tinian and Rota chapters both just had busy weekends, with Rota's members participating in a coastal cleanup and a lure-tying class last Saturday, while Tinian's members welcomed guest speakers from the U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Public Safety Boating Division, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, and the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality.

Under the guidance of TTT Rota advisers Larry Hocog and Inas Lizama Jr., Rota's student members picked up trash from Pinatang Park to the West Harbor. Afterward,

Lizama sat with the students and taught them lure-tying techniques. The group ended their day with a barbecue for lunch.

On Tinian, TTT welcomed multiple guests to present on their respective topics of

interest at the Tinian Jr./Sr. High School cafeteria. Among those guests was Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Eugene Chung, who did a presentation similar to when he was welcomed as a guest by TTT Rota two weeks ago, and Michael Barcinas



Tasi to Table Rota's student members pose with the trash they collected after their cleanup from Pinatang Park to Rota's West Harbor last Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Tasi to Table Tinian advisers and student members pose with the U.S. Coast Guard's Lt. Cmdr. Eugene Chung last Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

from the DPS Boating Division, who welcomed students aboard a vessel for a hands-on lesson on boating safety.

TTT president Gene Weaver spoke on the importance of keeping all of the organization's student members engaged: "Keeping the club active is an integral part to ensuring we keep momentum going. ...Our [advisers] on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan each take it upon themselves to come up with activities that support our environment [and] learning and building skills," said Weaver.

"We are hopeful that we will be able to sustain [collaborations] and continuously build on the program for our islands' youth," said TTT vice president Wayne Pangelinan, who also thanked TTT's pri-

vate business partners for their continued support, including the Bank of Saipan, Fishing Tackle & Sporting Goods, IT&E, the Robert Torres Law Office, Mobil Oil Marianas, and McDonald's Saipan.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, the Department of

Lands & Natural Resources, the Rota Mayor's Office, the Rota Municipal Council, the Tinian Mayor's Office, the CNMI Public School System, and funding from Tinian's allocated tobacco tax funds all played their parts in making TTT programs on Rota and Tinian possible.



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT MVA IS HIRING!!!

JVA #	VACANT POSITION	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE
JVA-21-001	MARKETING SPECIALIST II	MAY 17, 2021	MAY 31, 2021
JVA-21-002	GRAPHIC ARTIST	MAY 17, 2021	MAY 31, 2021
JVA-21-003	SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR	MAY 24, 2021	JUNE 7, 2021

ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE A U.S. CITIZEN OR OTHERWISE QUALIFIED U.S. WORKER. INTERESTED PERSONS MAY CONTACT THE MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY OFFICE AT (670) 664-3200/01 OR VISIT WWW.MYMARIANAS.COM FOR MORE DETAILS.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARFF BUILDING RENOVATION - REPACKAGED**, TINIAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP NO. 3-69-0011-28/30.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "TNI ARFF BUILDING RENOVATIONS - REPACKAGED", Tinian International Airport, Tinian, CNMI, AIP No. 3-69-0011-28/30", and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., Friday, JUNE 25, 2021**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor the Arrival Building at the Saipan International Airport. Sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read at the Saipan Airport Conference Room immediately after the deadline on the same day.

The project, in general, consist of the TNI ARFF Building renovation and extension, and construction of new building. It includes demolition of existing ARFF Dispatch and first bay of the aforesaid building. A three-story building will be constructed at this site, and the remaining building will receive extension of frontage at Bay 2 and Bay 3. A new auxiliary building will be constructed adjacent to the building. Also, this project includes replacement of existing chain-link fence, additional parking and other associated works, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Commonwealth Ports Authority's Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS (\$200.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Tinian Ports Manager's Office at the Tinian International Airport at **11:00 AM, Friday, June 11, 2021**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will be followed by the pre-bid conference. This pre-bid is not mandatory and minutes of the pre-bid will be distributed to all parties who have picked up the DVD containing the plans and specifications.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications. It is the contractor's responsibility to inform CPA as soon as possible if there is a problem accessing the information on the DVD. Contractors are to verify all information provided using the table of contents for the specifications and the plan that shows the index of drawings.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **Four Hundred Thirty (430) Calendar Days**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **One Thousand (\$1,000.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: May 21, 2021



UNITED STATES Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 2nd Quarter General Membership Meeting on June 8, 2021 from 9:00am to 1:00pm at Aqua Resort, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of June 08, 2021
- IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of March 02, 2021
- V. Action Items
 - a. Election of Chairperson
 - b. Ratify the Approval of Proposed Amendment of FY 2021 DD Basic Grant
 - c. Ratify the Approval of FY 2022-2026 Goals and Objectives of DD Basic Grant
- VI. Reports
 - a. Chairperson
 - b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
 - c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
 - d. Executive Director
- VII. Old Business
 - a. Center for Living Independently Workshop Update
 - b. Disability Network Partners (DNP) Update
 - c. DD Council Website Redesign Update
 - d. 2021 Champions of Equal Opportunities Award Ceremony
- VIII. New Business
 - a. CIRCLES Video Production
 - b. Saipan First Responder Training
 - c. CDD's Five State Plan 2022-2026 Public Hearing
 - d. New Membership Orientation
- IX. Miscellaneous
- X. Next Meeting
- XI. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Jan Barcinas
Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

As the vaccine rate slows, leaders should be creative in trying to tempt the reluctant to roll up their sleeves

COVID-19 cases are falling around the country, and that's worth celebrating. However, the pandemic isn't over.

Herd immunity, which can be reached through a combination of vaccination and natural infection, remains a goal.

Vaccinating as many Americans as possible is an attainable way to reach that milestone, but it may take incentives.

Many people are hesitating to roll up their sleeves for the inoculating shot. Politicians, business leaders and schools should work together to overcome vaccine hesitancy, and the carrot is a better approach than the stick of government mandate.

Incentives should be put in place to tempt citizens who are on the fence.

When vaccines initially began rolling out around the country, demand far outstripped supply. In mid-April, the U.S. averaged around 3.4 million doses of vaccine per day. By the week of May 9, the average had fallen to 2.19 million doses per day, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The number is continuing to drop. In many states, pharmacies and clinics are accepting walk-ins for COVID-19 vaccinations.

To bridge the gap more quickly between the number vaccinated and the number needed to reach herd immunity, leaders should start thinking creatively. Passing out lottery tickets that afford the opportunity of winning money at vaccine appointments could help encourage wary individuals to sign up for a shot. Schools working to vaccinate students could offer gift certificates or vouchers to cultural offerings like museums or concerts. States could dole out passes for camping facilities. Gift certificates to local eateries and breweries could be an option with the dual purposes of vaccination plus funneling customers back to businesses that need support.

Some states and localities have already started the incentive program. In West Virginia, Gov. Jim Justice announced that the state would give young people \$100 bonds if they got vaccinated. Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine has promised a weekly "lottery" for a \$1 million prize and full college scholarships to convince more unvaccinated people to take the plunge.

There is a swath of the population for whom an incentive would work, according to ongoing research at UCLA. That research indicates a third of unvaccinated people would be willing to roll up their sleeve in exchange for an incentive.

See **VACCINE** on Next Page

It's time for a Gaza show-and-tell

Our task today is to finally make clear a couple of core realities that have somehow remained camouflaged and unrecognized in the human tragedy in Gaza and Israel.

Our plan is to cut through both the fog of war and the bomfog of the war-explainers.

And as a fragile cease-fire has just begun between Hamas and Israel, it is way past time for us to do this. That's because, for weeks, we have been allowing the war-makers to double as our war-explainers. And yes, the "we" I am talking about includes the most highly respected of my news media colleagues. So buckle up.

Let's begin with one basic reality the world's deciders must finally recognize:

QUESTION: Who is the culprit most responsible for the horrific slaughter of hundreds of Gaza's innocent civilians—Palestinian men, women and children?

ANSWER: It is Hamas, Gaza's own duly elected governing body, which the United Nations and others have classified as a terrorist organization.

Hamas' rulers have long installed rocket launchers (also military attack tunnels and other targets) in the middle of Gaza's most densely populated residential areas. In a damnable, diabolical act, Hamas then repeatedly fired rockets from those launchers targeting Israeli population centers. Why? Hamas was deliberately goading Israel into believing it had no choice but to protect Israeli civilians by launching retaliatory airstrikes that would not just blow up those launchers but would inevitably kill massive numbers of the neighboring Palestinian civilians.

Why has Hamas done that? Because Hamas' main goal was to win a much larger war—a worldwide propaganda war in which Israel would be seen as killers of Palestinian civilians. And the world would then turn against Israel. And lo, that too has come to pass. Once again, Israel has fallen into Hamas' years-old, battle-tested human shields trap.

This brings us to a second reality the world's deciders must finally recognize (even if Israel's flailing Netanyahu government refuses to recognize it):

QUESTION: Does Israel's military superiority guarantee its invincibility in the Middle East?

ANSWER: Not if Israel refuses to skillfully use all the weapons in its arsenal. And so far, Hamas' ragtag terrorist rulers have outsmarted, outmaneuvered and outgunned Israel on one battlefield—fighting the 21st century PR "www" wars that are fought with weaponry of the worldwide web.

It had been happening even before Al Gore invented the internet—and now it is happening again, more decisively than ever. Indeed, Israel seems to have given up on being smart and has simply stopped trying to win the online war (and the U.N. diplomatic wars) where the world thinks it has seen the ultimate real-

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.



ity. Once again, Hamas was locked and loaded—and deployed its best weapon of modern-day warfare where Israel's most orthodox leaders have been bizarrely the most pigheaded. The Palestinians rocketed around the world videos showing bodies of dead Palestinian children. And Israel's response was to increase its airstrikes on launchers and attack tunnels—but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government stopped trying to show the world its visual evidence that Hamas fired waves of rockets from launchers near apartments, schools and hospitals.

Perhaps the best way to grasp the extent to which Israel has become the ultimate victim of its own pigheadedness can be found by looking at the very best in our news business—The New York Times. Wednesday's lead article on the front page was a long, detailed chronicling of the massive damage inflicted upon Gaza's civilians: "... damaged 17 hospitals and clinics ... wrecked its only coronavirus test laboratory ... sent fetid wastewater into its streets ... a humanitarian crisis that is touching nearly every civilian ... about two million people ... dozens of schools have been damaged ... at least 213 Palestinians have been killed, including dozens of children."

The action was summed up much as most of the world thinks of the Gaza tragedy: "Israeli airplanes continued to pound Gaza with missiles, and Hamas and its Islamist affiliates fired rockets into Israel." But actually, that's the reverse of how it happened: In reality, Hamas rockets were launched first. That's how Israeli military located the source and was able to retaliate. Some 70% of Israelis scurried into bomb shelters. Israel had no choice but to destroy Hamas' launchers. Sometimes Israel could warn civilians to evacuate. Other times there was no time. Tragically, the Hamas launchers' innocent neighbors died, their homes demolished.

Why has Netanyahu's government refused to show the world—at the U.N. or just online—its high-tech visual evidence that Hamas' launchers were surrounded by unwilling Palestinian human shields?

There can be no reason. Unless it is the unthinkable—that no evidence exists because it was all a lie. Otherwise, it is way past time for Israel to regain the diplo-moral high ground. Here's how: Show-and-tell us the truth.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The current version of political conservatism is a threat

Strange things have been happening in the Republican Party. Our understanding of them might be served by a brief review of the traditional meanings of the terms “conservative” and “liberal.”

The story of American politics has always been about the tension among citizens with different opinions about how big the federal government should be. Founders such as Alexander Hamilton and John Adams were on strong-central-government

side of this tug of war; Thomas Jefferson and James Madison were on the states'-rights side. Their adherents coalesced into parties.

As much as the founders detested the idea of political parties, in retrospect they were probably, on the one hand, not such a bad idea and, on the other, inevitable.

This has always worked to the advantage of conservatives. Every politician wants to run on a platform of “small government” and “low taxes.” Few politicians have the courage to run on a platform of “big government” and “high taxes.” And even fewer have the naiveté to run on “no government” and “no taxes” at one extreme or “communism” at the other.

Thus American politics is about finding the sweet spot that everyone can, more or less, live with. Terms like “high taxes” and “low taxes” are meaningless to the point of irrelevance. Nearly everyone recognizes that the definition of a society includes the notion that citizens have to contribute something toward the common enterprise. How we view taxation is a question of how much we get back from what we put in.

Full disclosure: I tend to side with Hamilton and Adams. I believe that some things are done best by government and that some things can be done only by a strong central government. The quintessential example is the abolition of slavery, which required the most extravagant employment of federal power.

But who knows how long segregation and legalized discrimination against minorities and women would have persisted if strong federal action had not forced all states to provide for every citizen the rights guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution?

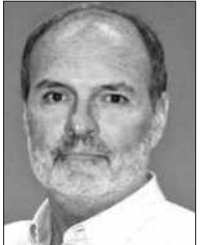
Further, we tend to undervalue the benefits that we derive from government, both local and federal. I'm a strong believer in a powerful national military. I'm glad that I can have reasonable confidence that the food I buy at the grocery store won't make me sick. I like to be able to arrive in practically any town in the nation and drink the tap water with confidence.

I like the fact that if my house catches fire, I've already paid taxes that will ensure that someone will come and put it out. And even though I have no children of my own, I don't mind paying

By **JOHN M. CRISP**

Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcol-umns@gmail.com.the United States.



taxes so that yours can go to a public school.

Am I overpaying or underpaying in taxes for all of this? If you're a liberal, you might agree that the cost is reasonable. If you're a conservative, you might think it's overpriced. Politics is about finding the middle ground. It's a question of balance. Liberals need conservatives just as much as conservatives need liberals.

But this traditional narrative has little to do with what's currently happening in the Republican Party. The conservatives who take this traditional view are overwhelmed by the “conservatives” who have abused the beguiling message of low taxes and small government.

Even this is disingenuous. The upstarts in the Republican Party have little regard for fiscal responsibility (the Trump tax cuts), and they are happy to use big government when it serves their purposes (abolishing the constitutional right of reproductive choice).

Further, they have perfected the politics of grievance and complaint. The Republican representatives who last week refused to honor House rules regarding mask-wearing appear to believe that they're striking a blow for freedom comparable to Rosa Parks' stand.

But Jefferson and Madison would be appalled by their petulant, election-denying, cultish deviancy, which falls far outside traditional political discourse.

This is unfortunate. Their perversity is threatening to eliminate the sort of rational conservative force that is essential to the health of the nation. Once they destroy it, we may never get it back.

VACCINE

From Page 8

Cash or vouchers may nudge the reluctant toward inoculation and that will help make the country safer for all.

(c) 2021 the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Belarus must pay if it hijacked a flight to capture a dissenter

The United States and the European Union have responded with immediate and appropriate outrage to the apparent hijacking of a plane by the authoritarian government of Belarus so that a dissident, activist journalist on board could be arrested. What's particularly welcome is that the tough words have been accompanied by actions.

On Sunday a commercial flight from Athens to Vilnius, Lithuania, was intercepted by a Belarusian fighter jet, apparently on the orders of the country's longtime president, Alexander Lukashenko. The ostensible cause was a supposed bomb threat, but the real objective seems to have been the arrest of Raman Pratasevich, who was taken into custody after the plane landed in the capital city of Belarus, Minsk. (When the plane was searched, no bomb was found.)

Living in self-imposed exile in Lithuania, Pratasevich, 26, ran a messaging app that helped organize protests against Lukashenko, a strongman accused of jailing political opponents and orchestrating blatant election fraud. The young dissident faces charges of inciting public disorder and social hatred, offenses that could lead to a more than 12 years imprisonment. His situation may be even more dire, however, because Belarus' state police agency has reportedly classified him as a terrorist. If charged and convicted of terrorism, he could face the death penalty.

Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken promptly and properly called for Pratasevich's immediate release. On Monday, White House press secretary Jen Psaki called the diversion of the airliner a “shocking act” and said the U.S. was demanding “an immediate, international, transparent and credible investigation of this incident.” European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the diversion of the plane amounted to a “hijacking.” They're right — forcing a plane down in order to take custody of a government critic violates the global agreements on which international air travel depends.

Meeting in Brussels on Monday, leaders of the European Union increased the pressure on Belarus. They released a statement calling on all EU-based airlines to avoid Belarusian airspace and for measures to deny Belarusian airlines access to airports in the EU, while promising to impose new economic sanctions on Belarus. The leaders also urged an investigation by the International Civil Aviation Organization and called for the release of Pratasevich and his Russian girlfriend, Sofia Sapega.

This prompt and forceful response is welcome. Interfering with an international flight to kidnap a dissident is not just a violation of human rights but also a breach of international norms and a threat to the safety of passengers.

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We need politicians who are not puppets

Tied to your party's platform. Tied to your party's primary voters. Tied to your party's donors. Tied to your party's leaders. And, of course, tied to your consultants so you can get re-elected.

Our politicians come with a lot of strings attached. Even the most fervent good-governance advocates, such as Stacey Abrams, fall short of acknowledging that even with full voter participation, our system binds and biases politicians from being truly free to represent their constituents.

Closed primaries, for instance, bind politicians to prioritize their partisan primary voters above all other voices. The typical U.S. House member has to be especially attentive to this audience because every two years their job is in the hands of these ideologically extreme individuals. Good-governance advocates could champion open primaries and/or independent redistricting commissions as a means to increase the “value” of votes from the general electorate. However, such reforms would diminish the power of the two major parties and not even people like Abrams dare cross their party's influence.

Seemingly unlimited influence from major donors similarly binds politicians. Money is even more powerful than votes in our current democracy, as pointed out by Katherine Gehl of the Institute for Political Innovation. Once a politician locks up enough votes to get through their primary and the general, there's no incentive to push for more votes. More money, on the other hand, is always useful because those dollars can be shared with other party members—helping make you a kingmaker and, thereby, move you up the party ranks. So if a donor wants a politician or their party to go in a certain direction, the odds are they'll find a way to pivot in that direction.

Ultra vires partisan structures within Congress and our state legislatures similarly bind politicians. The decision to grant partisan leaders power over things like committee assignments means politicians are rewarded for being good

By **KEVIN FRAZIER**

The Fulcrum

Kevin Frazier, a student at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, runs The Oregon Way, a nonpartisan blog.








party soldiers.

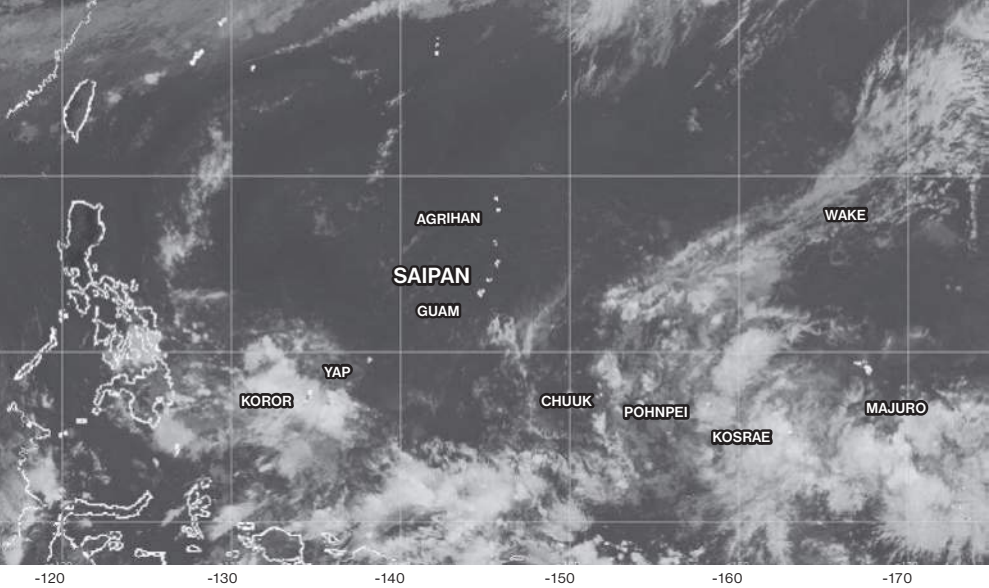
Finally, the normalization of career politicians—endlessly seeking another term—means politicians are beholden to their consultants. Their pollsters, social media planners, etc. make sure politicians never get too close to going against the grain. These creatures of the partisan industrial complex help everything stay within the party-approved lines.

All of these strings have left the American people with puppets for politicians at a time when we need public servants. All of the incentives encourage politicians to become captured, so we need a generation of public servants with enough of a moral compass to step up, serve, then step aside. These no-strings-attached public servants can pass legislation that's costly in the short run to create a better future. These uncaptured public servants can shun special interests and focus first on what's best for their constituents. These short-term politicians can stop contributing to the partisan industrial complex and actually spend their terms governing, rather than dialing for dollars.

It's a worthy aspiration to make it as easy as possible for people to vote. But so long as money is more valuable than votes and primary votes are more valuable than “normal” votes, full participation would be a pyrrhic victory.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:33 AM, TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly cloudy skies and isolated showers within the Marianas Waters. A trough of low pressure is creating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms well to the east. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 5 feet composed mainly of east trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly cloudy	90 81 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85 78 °F	
Yap	Mostly cloudy	88 73 °F	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86 81 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85 81 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 80 °F	
Majuro	Partly cloudy	85 81 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	5:45 AM	6:42 PM
Sunday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:15 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	-	6:10 AM	7:39 PM
Friday	-	7:10 AM	8:45 PM
Saturday	-	8:13 AM	9:48 PM
Sunday	-	9:17 AM	10:45 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	61 55 °F	
Beijing	Partly cloudy	82 63 °F	
Hong Kong	Cloudy	82 75 °F	
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	84 71 °F	
London	Partly cloudy	77 55 °F	
Los Angeles	Partly cloudy	69 60 °F	
Manila	Thunderstorms	87 79 °F	
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	65 49 °F	
Miami	Thunderstorms	87 74 °F	
New York	Rain	62 57 °F	
Osaka	Cloudy	79 58 °F	
Paris	Sunny	82 58 °F	
Pusan	Mostly sunny	84 52 °F	
Rome	Sunny	83 57 °F	
Salem	Partly cloudy	74 49 °F	
San Francisco	Partly cloudy	66 55 °F	
Seoul	Rain	76 68 °F	
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	80 65 °F	
Washington, DC	Rain	75 58 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:03 AM	Low Tide	1.11	
6:29 AM	High Tide	2.23	
1:38 PM	Low Tide	-0.30	
8:31 PM	High Tide	2.18	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 20, 2021								
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7		UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam		UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5		UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,		UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>								

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable

1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NEWS DESK

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Business

Bargain buys everyday at Bargain Center

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Your quest for bargain hunting ends at Bargain Center located along Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa. With all items sold at low prices and at a discount, you are assured of getting quality items that won't hurt your wallet.

According to longtime businessman and Bargain Center manager Mukesh Devjani, he opened Bargain Center in 2002 to cure boredom. "In my 30s, I used to do wholesale business in the Micronesia islands but my base was Saipan. I used to travel every two weeks and come back which



BEA CABRERA

Stress-free shopping at Bargain Center where everything you need are available at affordable prices.

leaves me 20 days in a month of doing nothing," he said.

"That was the reason that inspired me to open my own shop and to cater to the community by retailing quality clothes, shoes, bags that are very affordable. Currently, I still sell wholesale in Chuuk, Pohnpei, and other Micronesia islands," he added.

Bargain Center is the of-

ficial distributor of the U.S. brand Dickies that is known in the market as durable as well as fashionable. The brand includes jeans, shorts, shirts, and jackets. "We also carry Wrangler and most products of Hanes. We have other notable brands and we carry everything—clothes, apparel, shoes, slippers, bags, accessories, and more whether it's for work, school, events, or outdoor activities," Devjani said.

**For more information,
call (670) 235-4450**



BEA CABRERA

Bargain Center manager Mukesh Devjani, right, and his brother both man and help customers at the store.



BEA CABRERA

Bargain Center is located along Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa.

bring to the store that helps a lot," he added.

Devjani said that since it's graduation season, Bargain Center carries shirts, pants, and dresses appropriate for graduating students. "At Bargain Center, we have clothes for everybody and for any occasion. People come to us when they want to save money but get the best products. We want to keep business that way."

"We would like to thank the community for their patronage and trust. We appreciate all of them," he added.

Bargain Center is open from Monday to Sunday, 11am-8pm. For more information, call (670) 235-4450 or look them up on Facebook: Bargain Center Saipan.

Biden doubling spending to prepare for hurricanes, storms

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden announced Monday that he's doubling U.S. emergency spending to help communities prepare for hurricanes and other extreme weather events, while launching a new effort at NASA to better understand and track the impact of climate change.

The \$1 billion in spending is a small fraction of what the U.S. spends on weather-related disasters. Last year alone, the nation endured 22 weather and climate-related disasters with losses greater than \$1 billion each. The disasters, including wildfires, hurricanes and snowstorms, had a cumulative price tag of nearly \$100 billion.

2021 has already had significant winter storms that caused a deadly blackout in Texas and other states, and officials expect an ongoing severe drought in the West to fuel another destructive summer of wildfires following one of the worst fire years on record in 2020. Forecasters predict a busy hurricane season along the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, but perhaps not as severe as 2020's record-shattering year.

"We all know that the storms are coming, and we're going to be prepared," Biden said during a visit to the Federal Emergency Manage-

ment Agency's Washington headquarters. "We have to be ready."

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said last week that the hurricane season, which runs from June through November, will likely see 13 to 20 named storms, including at least six that will become hurricanes and three to five categorized as major hurricanes with winds of more than 110 mph (177 kilometers per hour).

Biden, during his visit to FEMA, received a briefing on this year's outlook for the Atlantic hurricane season.

As climate change threatens to bring more extreme events such as increased floods, sea level rise and intensifying droughts and wildfires, the White House said it is the government's responsibility to better prepare and support communities before disasters occur, rather than simply respond afterward.

FEMA will provide \$1 billion for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, or BRIC program, which helps states, local communities, tribes and territories to develop projects to prepare for and reduce risks from disasters and natural hazards.

"We're going to spare no expense, no effort, to keep Americans safe and respond to crises when they arise,"

Biden said. "And they certainly will."

The White House also said it will develop a new NASA mission concept for an Earth System Observatory that will forecast and monitor natural disasters. The Earth System Observatory will deploy advanced technology in space to improve understanding of interactions between Earth's atmosphere, land, ocean and ice, helping determine how climate change will play out in the near and long term.

The steps announced Monday are part of Biden's pledge to elevate climate change as a major priority. Biden has set a target to cut U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by up to 52% below 2005 levels by 2030. He also has said he expects to adopt a clean energy standard that would make electricity carbon-free by 2035, along with the wider goal of net-zero carbon emissions economywide by 2050.

Just last week, Biden directed federal agencies to develop a comprehensive strategy to identify and manage financial risks to government and the private sector posed by climate change. An executive order he issued Thursday calls for concrete steps to mitigate climate risks and could result in new regulations on the banking, housing and agriculture sectors, among others.

"My two philosophies in business are pricing and customer satisfaction. We try to keep our prizes low for customers because not everybody on Saipan receive high salaries. We try to keep it reasonable and this is also the reason why we are not expanding so

as not to incur expenses that the customer will have to bear if we increase our prices. Customer satisfaction is always on our mind. I consider our customers family more than friends. We see them come in every day to shop, talk to us, and give us ideas on what to

EU leaders agree on Belarus sanctions after plane diversion

BRUSSELS (AP)—The European Union agreed Monday to impose sanctions on Belarus, including banning its airlines from using the airspace and airports of the 27-nation bloc, amid fury over the forced diversion of a passenger jet to arrest an opposition journalist. Reacting to what EU leaders called a brazen "hijacking" of the Ryanair jetliner flying from Greece to Lithuania on Sunday, they also demanded the immediate release of the journalist, Raman Pratasevich, a key foe of authoritarian Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko.

"We won't tolerate that one can try to play Russian roulette with the lives of innocent civilians," said EU Council chief Charles Michel, who presided over the EU meeting.

A brief video clip of Pratasevich, who ran a popular messaging app that played a key role in helping organize huge protests against Lukashenko, was shown on Belarusian state television Monday night, a day after he was removed from the Ryanair flight.

Sitting at a table with his hands folded in front of him and speaking rapidly, Pratasevich said he was in satisfactory health and said his treatment in custody was "maximally correct and according to law." He added that he was giving evidence to investigators about organizing mass disturbances.

In their unusually swift action in Brussels, the EU leaders also urged all EU-based carriers to avoid flying over Belarus, decided to impose sanctions on officials linked to Sunday's flight diversion, and urged the International Civil Aviation Organization to start an investigation into what they viewed as an unprecedented move and what some said amounted to state terrorism or piracy.

The leaders called on their council "to adopt the necessary measures to ban overflight of EU airspace by Belarusian airlines and prevent access to EU airports of flights operated by such airlines." In addition calling for the release of Pratasevich, they also urged

authorities in Minsk to free his Russian girlfriend, Sofia Sapega, who was taken off the plane with him.

The text was endorsed quickly by the leaders who were determined to respond with a "strong reaction" to the incident because of the "serious endangering of aviation safety and passengers on board by Belarusian authorities," said an EU official with direct knowledge of the discussions who was not authorized to speak publicly about the private talks.

At least one European airline already diverted a flight around Belarus. British Airways flight 3599, which on Saturday and Sunday crossed over Belarus, bypassed the country Monday by using Russian airspace instead, according to the website FlightRadar24.

Ryanair said Belarusian flight controllers told the crew there was a bomb threat against the plane as it was crossing through Belarus airspace Sunday and ordered it to land.

Nation

Texas set to allow unlicensed handgun carry despite outcry

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Texas is poised to remove one of its last major gun restrictions after lawmakers approved allowing people to carry handguns without a license, and the background check and training that go with it.

The Republican-dominated Legislature approved the measure Monday, sending it to Gov. Greg Abbott, who has said he will sign it despite the objections of law enforcement groups who say it would endanger the public and police.

Gun control groups also oppose the measure, noting the state's recent history of mass shootings, including those at an El Paso Walmart, a church in Sutherland Springs, and a high school outside Houston.

Texas already has some of the loosest gun laws in the country and has more than 1.6 million handgun license holders.

Supporters of the bill say it would allow Texans to better defend themselves in public while abolishing unnecessary impediments to the constitutional right to bear arms. Once signed into law, Texas will join nearly two dozen other states that allow some form of unregulated carry of a handgun, and by far be the most populous.

The National Rifle Association was among those sup-



AP
In this Jan. 26, 2015 file photo, a supporter of open carry gun laws, wears a pistol as he prepares for a rally in support of open carry gun laws at the Capitol, in Austin, Texas.

the last decade.

Texas' move to further loosen gun laws galled El Paso lawmakers, including Democratic state Rep. Joe Moody, who on Sunday night delivered an emotional address on the House floor that recounted being in rooms with the governor and family members searching for loved ones after the Walmart shooting in 2019.

The 2021 legislative session is the first time state lawmakers have met in session since the attack that killed 23 people.

There were promises, Moody recalled, that the state would "take gun safety seriously" after the shooting. Authorities have said the shooter had targeted Mexicans in the border city.

"When the doors were closed I heard lots of promises," Moody said. "I haven't heard them since."

porting the measure, and a spokesman called it the "most significant" gun-rights measure in the state's history.

"A right requiring you to pay a tax or obtain a government permission slip is not a right at all," said Jason Ouimet, executive director of the NRA Institute for Legislative Action.

Texas already allows rifles to be carried in public without a license. The measure sent to

Abbott would allow anyone age 21 or older to carry a handgun as long as they don't have felony criminal convictions or some other legal prohibition in their background.

But without the state background check, law enforcement groups worry there would be no way to weed them out in advance. The bill does include stiffer penalties for felons caught illegally car-

rying guns.

The bill would not prevent businesses from banning guns on their property, and federal background checks for some gun purchases would remain in place. Texas has no state

requirements for background checks on private guns sales.

Texas has allowed people to carry handguns since 1995, and has been reducing the cost and training requirements for getting a license for

GOP officials seek probe of Proud Boys ties to censure vote

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Republicans in Nevada are calling for an investigation into a vote last month to censure the GOP secretary of state after allegations emerged that the balloting was swayed by activists with ties to the far-right Proud Boys extremist group.

The Clark County Republican Party, representing Las Vegas and the most populated part of the state, along with Republicans in the state Senate, called for a review of the vote after a report in the Las Vegas Review-Journal alleged the Nevada Republican Party added about 40 people, including activists with extremist ties, to its membership the day of the censure vote to ensure the measure passed.

"News reports that state party leaders may have formed a relationship with members of the organization known as the Proud Boys to sway the censure vote of a public official is profoundly concerning," Senate Republicans said in their statement. "If there is a determination that any member or employee of the Nevada Republican Party conspired with these individuals or had knowledge of any wrongdoing in the party vote, Senate Republi-

cans call for their immediate removal and resignation."

They called for the Nevada Republican Party to review and disclose who attended the censure vote of Republican Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske.

The Nevada Republican Party disputed the allegations and the statements made by their fellow party members as "slandorous lies."

Nevada Republican Party Chairman Michael McDonald told the newspaper that he was not involved in the censure and did not recruit anyone to participate in the vote. He also said he was unaware of and did not condone any hateful messages.

When reached Monday, McDonald declined to answer questions from The Associated Press and referred them to the state party's attorney Brian Hardy. Hardy did not immediately return a message left with his office.

Cegavske was censured at a meeting of the state party's members on a 126-112 vote for "failing to investigate election fraud" and for her public statements dismissing allegations of fraud in the November election lodged by her own party.

She has repeatedly defended the election results as

reliable and accurate despite attacks from President Donald Trump and other Republicans. President Joe Biden defeated Trump in the Western swing state by 2 percentage points, or nearly 34,000 votes.

Cegavske declined through a spokeswoman to comment.

At a news conference Monday morning, Clark County Republicans announced they had barred seven activists, including some of those alleged to have participated in the censure vote, from becoming county party members because of their reported ties to the Proud Boys and a social media account that posted anti-Semitic and racist content.

"I've worked very hard to have a very open and inclusive group," Clark County Republican Party Chair David Sajdak said. "We welcome everyone that is reasonable and (a) decent human being that treats each other with respect. I will never tolerate racist or hateful speech in attacking other people and human beings in this nature."

Stephen Silberkraus, vice chair of the Clark County Republican Party, said the activists had made attacks online against female elected officials, including Cegavske.

Floyd's death laid bare the 'Minnesota Paradox' of racism

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—George Floyd's death under a white Minneapolis police officer's knee severely tarnished Minnesota's reputation as a progressive state on matters of race. Many Black residents say it was never deserved in the first place.

The state's seemingly polite exterior, exemplified by the nickname "Minnesota Nice," has long concealed some of the country's worst racial disparities—especially when it comes to employment, housing and education. As the state on Tuesday marks the one-year anniversary of Floyd's death, residents are still debating whether anything has changed—or will.

Marvin Anderson, 81, an activist working to revive the historically Black neighborhood of Rondo in St. Paul, endured explicit acts of racism while living in the Deep South, then returned to his native Minnesota, where he and other Black residents were subjected to less-confrontational slights and microaggressions. He saw Floyd's tragic death a year ago as an opportunity to repair the "mildew and rotting timber" of America's foundation, but now questions whether Minnesota—despite its

progressive reputation—will be able to lead the way.

"Minnesota has the capacity, the skill, the intelligence to do better, and that's what hurts more than anything," Anderson said. "If there's one state where you might be able to solve these problems and set an example that other states could follow, it would be Minnesota."

Samuel Myers Jr., director of the Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice at the University of Minnesota, has spent years documenting what he calls "The Minnesota Paradox."

The state boasts high levels of educational attainment, world-class medical care such as the Mayo Clinic, shopping magnets such as the Mall of America, a vibrant arts scene, and big philanthropy-minded employers like 3M, Best Buy, General Mills and Target.

All that helps make Minnesota a great place for white residents. But Myers has also documented how different it is for many Black residents:

—The graduation rate for high school students hit a historic high of nearly 84% in 2019. But for Black students, it was below 70%. And while

two-thirds of white students met state reading proficiency standards, only a third of Black students did.

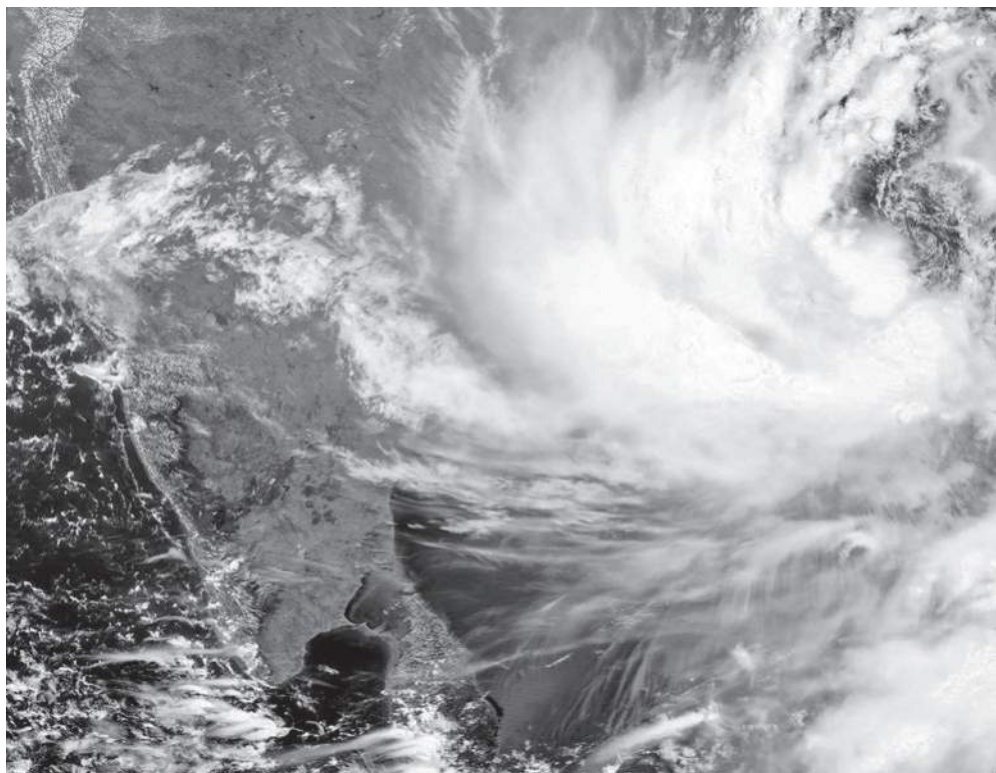
■ Minnesota had the highest rate of home ownership in the nation at nearly 73% according to a 2013 report. For U.S.-born Black Minnesota residents, it was just 26%.

■ The median household income for Minnesota in 2019 was \$77,000 for white households and about \$42,000 for Black households.

"When they say a Minnesota that works for all of us, they're not talking about me. They're not talking about people that look like me," said state Rep. John Thompson, 40.

Thompson, like many Black Minnesotans, can recount stories of being stopped by police for no good reason. It happened when he was 18, he said, when he and three friends—also Black—were stopped by officers and frisked when they left a family barbecue and walked down an alley to buy chips. More recently, he said, he was handcuffed by an officer after demanding his money back at a car wash that had malfunctioned—and after Thompson said he himself had called police.

Asia



This Monday, May, 24, 2021, satellite image provided by NASA shows Cyclone Yaas approaching India's eastern coast. AP

AS STRONG CYCLONE INCHES CLOSER

Thousands evacuated in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—Tens of thousands of people were evacuated Tuesday in low-lying areas of two Indian states and moved to cyclone shelters to escape a powerful storm barreling toward the eastern coast.

Cyclone Yaas is set to turn into a “very severe cyclonic storm” with sustained wind speeds of up to 177 kilometers per hour (110 miles per hour), the India Meteorological Department said. The cyclone is expected to make landfall early Wednesday in Odisha and West Bengal states.

The cyclone coming amid a devastating coronavirus surge complicates India's efforts to deal with both just 10 days after Cyclone Tauktae hit India's west coast and killed more than 140 people.

Thousands of emergency personnel have been deployed

in coastal regions of the two states for evacuation and any possible rescue operations, said S.N. Pradhan, director of India's National Disaster Response Force. India's air force and navy were also on standby to carry out relief work.

Fishing trawlers and boats have been told to take shelter until further notice as forecasters warned of high tidal waves.

In West Bengal, authorities were scrambling to move tens of thousands of people to cyclone shelters. Officials said at least 20 districts in the state will feel the brunt of the storm.

Last May, nearly 100 people died in Cyclone Amphan, the most powerful storm in more than a decade to hit eastern India, including West Bengal state. It flattened villages, destroyed farms and left millions without power in

eastern India and Bangladesh.

“We haven't been able to fix the damage to our home from the last cyclone. Now another cyclone is coming, how will we stay here?” said Samitri, who uses only one name.

In Odisha, a state already battered by coronavirus infections, authorities evacuated nearly 15,000 people living along the coast and moved them to cyclone shelters, senior officer Pradeep Jena said.

In a televised address Monday, the state's chief minister, Naveen Patnaik, appealed to people being moved to cyclone shelters to wear double masks and maintain social distancing. He asked authorities to distribute masks to the evacuated people.

“We have to face both the challenges simultaneously,” Patnaik said.

UN envoy warns of possible civil war in Myanmar, seeks talks

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. special envoy for Myanmar warned Monday of possible civil war in the country, saying people are arming themselves against the military junta and protesters have started shifting from defensive to offensive actions, using homemade weapons and training from some ethnic armed groups.

Chirine Schraner Burgener told a virtual U.N. news conference that people are starting self-defense actions because they are frustrated and fear attacks by the military, which carried out a coup on Feb. 1 against the democratically elected government, and is using “a huge scale of violence.”

A civil war “could happen,” she said, and that's why for the past three weeks from her base now in Thailand she has discussed with many key parties the idea of starting an inclusive dialogue that would include ethnic armed groups, political parties, civil society, strike committees and the army, known as the Tatmadaw, as well as a small group of witnesses from the international community.

“Clearly it will not be easy to convince especially both sides to come to a table, but I offer my good offices ... to avoid more bloodshed and civil war which would last a long time,” Schraner Burgener said. “We are worried about the situation and clearly we want that

people on the ground ... decide how they want to see the country going back to normal.”

Calling the situation in Myanmar “very bad,” she pointed to more than 800 people killed, over 5,300 arrested, and more than 1,800 arrest warrants issued by the military.

The U.N. envoy also cited reports of unconfirmed deaths, injuries, and damage to houses and civilian property in the town of Mindat in western Chin state, where the junta declared martial law because of armed resistance to military rule. She also pointed to new reports of increased violence in Kayah state—also known as Karenni state—in eastern Myanmar and in southern Shan state.

World

TO SHORE UP GAZA TRUCE

Blinken in Israel on Mideast tour

JERUSALEM (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has arrived in Israel at the start of a Middle East tour aimed at shoring up the Gaza cease-fire.

He will face the same obstacles that have stifled a wider peace process for more than a decade, including a hawkish Israeli leadership, Palestinian divisions and deeply rooted tensions surrounding Jerusalem and its holy sites.

The 11-day Gaza war killed more than 250 people, mostly Palestinians, and caused widespread destruction in the impoverished coastal territory. Blinken is expected to focus on coordinating reconstruction without engaging with Gaza's militant Hamas rulers, who are considered terrorists by Israel and Western countries.

The truce that came into effect Friday has so far held, but it did not address any of the underlying issues.

Blinken, who landed at Ben Gurion International Airport early Tuesday, is the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit the region since President Joe Biden assumed office. He was welcomed on the tarmac by Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi and other officials.

The administration had hoped to extricate the U.S. from the region's intractable conflicts and focus on competition with China and climate change. But like so many of its predecessors, it was pulled back into the Middle East by

another outbreak of violence.

He will begin his visit in Israel, where Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is fighting for his political life after a fourth inconclusive election in two years. Netanyahu faces mounting criticism from Israelis who say he ended the offensive prematurely, without forcibly halting Palestinian rocket attacks or dealing a heavier blow to Gaza's militant Hamas rulers.

The war was triggered by weeks of clashes in Jerusalem between Israeli police and Palestinian protesters in and around the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, a flash-point holy site. The protests were directed at Israel's policing of the area during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and the threatened eviction of dozens of Palestinian families by Jewish settlers.

The evictions were put on hold just before the Gaza fighting erupted, but the legal process is set to resume in the coming weeks. Police briefly clashed with protesters at Al-Aqsa on Friday, hours after the cease-fire came into effect. The site is revered by Jews and Muslims, and has seen several outbreaks of Israeli-Palestinian violence over the years.

Netanyahu is unlikely to make any public concessions on Al-Aqsa or the evictions because it would be seen as giving in to Hamas' demands.

Adding to the tensions, an Israeli soldier and a civilian were stabbed and wounded

in east Jerusalem on Monday before police shot and killed the assailant in what they described as a terrorist attack.

Blinken will not be meeting with the other party to the war, the Islamic militant group Hamas, which does not recognize Israel's right to exist.

Instead, he will head to the occupied West Bank to meet with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who has no power in Gaza and was largely sidelined by recent events.

Abbas, who called off the first Palestinian elections in 15 years last month when it appeared his fractured Fatah movement would suffer an embarrassing defeat, is seen by many Palestinians as having lost all legitimacy. A crowd of worshippers at Al-Aqsa chanted against his Palestinian Authority and in support of Hamas on Friday.

But Abbas is still seen internationally as the representative of the Palestinian people and a key partner in the long-defunct peace process.

Blinken will also visit neighboring Egypt and Jordan, which made peace with Israel decades ago and have acted as mediators in the conflict. Egypt succeeded in brokering the Gaza truce after the Biden administration pressed Israel to wind down its offensive.

Biden announced the visit, saying Blinken would work with regional partners on a “coordinated international effort to ensure immediate assistance reaches Gaza.”

Death toll from Congo volcano eruption rises to at least 32

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—The volcanic eruption in eastern Congo two days ago has killed at least 32 people, officials said Monday as residents searched for missing loved ones amid destroyed homes on the outskirts of the eastern city of Goma where aftershocks were detected.

With little warning Mount Nyiragongo turned the dark sky fiery red Saturday night and then spewed torrents of lava into villages destroying more than 500 homes, officials and survivors said.

The toll Monday increased from 22 to 32, and was likely to continue rising, said according to Joseph Makundi, head of Civil Protection for the North Kivu province. More than a dozen people died in car accidents while trying to escape, he said. Others were killed when lava hit their homes.

Some died Monday from

inhaling smoke or toxic gas when they were walking across a wide expanse of the cooling lava, the scientific director of the Volcanic Observatory of Goma, Celestin Kasereka Mahinda, told The Associated Press.

They were traveling on the road between Kibati and Goma that was cut off by a flow of lava 1,000 meters (about a half-mile) wide, he said.

“The population of Goma must avoid unnecessary travel, but also not visit places that have been hit by lava from the volcano because these lavas are toxic and harmful,” he said.

Grief, disbelief and fear hung over the area as a delegation of government ministers, including Congo's health minister, visited Goma after flying in from neighboring Rwanda.

Scientists at the volcano

observatory weren't able to adequately warn the public of the eruption because of a funding cut, Mahinda said.

“The observatory no longer has the support of the central government or of external donors, which explains why the volcanic eruption was such a surprise,” Mahinda told The Associated Press. A partnership between the government and the World Bank that had supported the observatory was cut in October 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic, leaving the observatory without even internet, he said.

The observatory had just started to resume operations last month thanks to new funding from the U.S. Geological Survey's Volcano Disaster Assistance Program, which means the observatory can at least gather data after the eruption, he said.

Good Housekeeping

On Gardening: Shadowland Autumn Frost is a heart-humping hosta

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Shadowland Autumn Frost is an award-winning hosta that will stop you in your tracks.

Recently I posted a photo and called it a heart-thumping hosta. One of my Facebook followers said something rather meaningful: “You will love it Norman, I have 300 assorted hostas!”

That statement says it all—hostas can be addicting. I have gone to 30 hostas in what seemed like a nanosecond and when I saw Shadowland Autumn Frost, my heart started beating harder and I simply could not wait. I admit I wasn’t expecting a collision with the design side of my horticultural endeavor.

I think I now know why you see so many photos of gardeners growing a gazillion hostas all mixed together.

First off, it somehow works. All those leaves come together in a design and color scheme that the best of artists would struggle to put on canvas. I am not there yet — I am still the guy that joyfully designs my hosta plant partnerships.

So let’s get a little important information down first.

Shadowland Autumn Frost is not a giant hosta like the Shadowland Empress Wu. It reaches 12 inches tall with a 24-inch spread. Shadowland Empress Wu has blue-green leaves. Shadowland Autumn Frost foliage emerges a frosty blue with extra wide yellow margins that age to creamy white during the summer.

I love how hosta champions lead to a lineage of more award winners. Shadowland



Shadowland Autumn Frost hosta emerges with frosty blue leaves with wide yellow margins.

Autumn Frost is a sport of the 2010 American Hosta of the Year, First Frost. My guess is you’ll love Autumn Frost even more. So back to The Garden Guy’s conundrum on how to use it in the landscape.

First, it is natural to combine with big-leaved hydrangeas. No matter whether yours are blue, purple or pink, hostas and hydrangeas are simply a marriage made in gardening heaven, so I took advantage of the opportunity.

Next, I wanted to try them with the new series of Soprano impatiens coming out next

year, which by the way are disease-resistant and put the fun back into growing impatiens. This combination with Autumn Frost is a Holy Wow!

The scapes of lavender purple blooms reach 12-14 inches tall and bring in the hummingbirds as well as your favorite salvia. Oddly blooms of a hosta often go unappreciated. I still remember the flower arrangements with the blossoms at church in Mississippi, yet I have never seen it again.

The hosta is in the lily family and has the common name of plantain lily. Because of



Shadowland Autumn Frost hosta is a natural to be combined in a garden of hydrangeas.



Shadowland Autumn Frost is a Heart Thumping Hosta that combines wonderfully with next year’s Soprano impatiens.

their lush foliage you would swear they are from some tropical South Pacific island. Unbelievably, they are very cold hardy. Shadowland Autumn Frost is recommended for zones 3a to 9b, which is a huge geographic range.

Instead of the tropics, hostas come from Japan, Korea and China, and there are about 40 species. There are thousands and thousands of varieties and hybrids, making it the collector’s dream plant. Shadowland Autumn Frost is one of a dozen varieties in the series coming from Proven Winners.

No matter which Shadowland hosta you choose, the bed should be rich in organic matter, so incorporate 3 to 4 inches of humus or compost to improve drainage and aeration. While tilling, add 2 pounds per 100 square feet of a 12-6-6 slow-release fertilizer with minor nutrients. Plant at the same depth they are growing in the container, placing the crown of the plant slightly above the soil line.

At The Garden Guy’s house, watering is a regular midmorning ritual unless a rain event is assured. Since Columbus, Georgia is the home of hot summer temperatures, I want my hostas going into afternoon heat, hydrated for best growth and performance. Shadowland Autumn Frost can take a little sun but not much.

The Shadowland Hosta Series offers everything you could want. The Garden Guy’s favorites are the dazzling variegated Shadowland Etched Glass, the monolithic-sized Shadowland Empress Wu and my new love Shadowland Autumn Frost.

Design Recipes: Working with size, scale

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Ever wonder why one piece of furniture fits perfectly in one space but looks awkward in another? It may relate to how the object is visually perceived within a space, in which size and scale can often come into play.

Size

Size does matter in certain rooms. A general room of thumb is a space should allow for proper circulation. Typically a minimum of 3 feet should surround a piece of furniture. Be careful to select a piece of furniture that is not too big or too small for a space. Need help deciding? Here are some general rules of thumb.

1. Allow for proper flow



An oversized coffee table helps create the proper sense of scale in this loft space.

and circulation in a space. One should be able to open a closet door, enter and exit a room without bumping into a piece of furniture.

2. Visually allow a space for the eye to rest. For example, a smaller coffee table next to a larger sofa may allow for the coffee table to not further overwhelm the space.

3. Use a piece of furniture or accessory to help anchor a space. Often in spaces that are overly large, a larger area rug, upholstery item or case good can help achieve this.

Scale

A chair in one room can look small, while in another space it can look commanding and grand. Similarly, a room that has soaring ceilings can feel cavernous and cold if furniture of the appropriate scale isn’t

used. What can go wrong? Perhaps it’s a space in which the sofa is too big and overstuffed, a mirror is too small or too big, or an area rug just “floats” as opposed to helping ground a space. Here are some helpful tips.

1. In general, when it comes to artwork and mirrors, they should be 2/3 the size of the object below it. You want to avoid selections that are too small or too big.

2. When working with high ceilings or large walls, a selection of large-scale artwork often works best. Conversely, if you have a small area to fill, smaller scale pieces work best.

3. Think of scale even with accessories. A vignette of various accessories such as vases, sculpture, lamps even plantings or blooms should be of the appropriate scale.

Life & Style

AP says it is reviewing social media policies after firing

NEW YORK (AP)—The Associated Press said Monday that it is launching a review of its social media policies after questions were raised about last week's firing of one of its journalists who had expressed pro-Palestinian views.

That announcement came hours after more than 100 AP journalists signed a letter expressing concern about how former news associate Emily Wilder was treated. The journalists want more clarity in what can be said on forums like Twitter and Facebook and faith the company would protect them from pressure campaigns.

In a memo to staff members on Monday, the AP's news leaders asked for volunteers to suggest changes to social media guidelines, with the idea of a committee bringing forth recommendations by September.

"One of the issues brought forward in recent days is the belief that restrictions on social media prevent you from being your true self, and that this disproportionately harms journalists of color, LGBTQ journalists and others who often feel attacked online," the memo said. "We need to dive into this issue."

Wilder, a 22-year-old who had worked a little over two weeks covering news in the Western U.S. from Phoenix, was fired after the AP said she violated social media rules. The rules compel staff members not to express opinions on controversial issues for fear of damaging the AP's reputation for objectivity and jeopardize its many reporters around the world.

During that time, a young Republicans' group from Stanford University raised

concerns about Wilder's advocacy as a student there. Wilder, who was not told what she had done specifically to violate standards, said her firing was "precipitated by an onslaught of harassment against me."

The AP journalists who wrote to protest her firing demanded more clarity about the decision and said they were concerned the decision would embolden others who would launch smear campaigns against reporters, and have already made many reluctant to engage in social media.

The news leaders said sharing more information was difficult: the company does not publicly discuss personnel issues to protect the privacy of staff.

"We can assure you that much of the coverage and commentary does not accu-

rately portray a difficult decision we did not make lightly," the memo said. It did not make clear what information was re-

ported inaccurately.

The incident illustrates how it can be difficult for a news organization, particularly a

traditionalist like The Associated Press, to handle the free-wheeling nature of social media.

Italy's Eurovision song winner tests negative for drugs



Members of the band Maneskin from Italy guitarist Thomas Raggi, from left, lead vocalist Damiano David, bass player Victoria De Angelis and drummer Ethan Torchio, pose for photographers with the trophy after winning the Grand Final of the Eurovision Song Contest at Ahoy arena in Rotterdam, early Sunday, May 23, 2021.

AP

ROME (AP)—Eurovision Song Contest organizers said Monday that the lead singer of Italian glam rock band Maneskin tested negative for drug use, putting to an end speculation that had tarnished the band's victory.

"We consider the matter closed," the European Broadcasting Union, which produces the annual kitsch-filled song festival, said in a statement.

EBU said it came to the conclusion after it reviewed all the available footage of the TV broadcast Saturday night and saw the negative results

of Maneskin singer Damiano David's voluntarily drug test.

Rumors had swirled on social media—and were raised at a Eurovision news conference—that David had snorted cocaine when he was seen leaning awkwardly over a table during the live TV broadcast. David immediately rejected the claim, saying he never uses drugs and that he was leaning over because his guitarist had broken a glass.

The claims found a particular echo in mainstream French media. France, which was a leading contender for the

Eurovision victory, came in second place after the popular votes were tallied.

"We are alarmed that inaccurate speculation leading to fake news has overshadowed the spirit and the outcome of the event and unfairly affected the band," the EBU statement said.

Maneskin's win gave Italy a sorely needed boost after a dreadful year as one of the countries worst hit by the coronavirus and will bring next year's competition back to the place where European song contests began.

Weinstein extradition to California faces another delay

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—Harvey Weinstein's extradition from New York to California to face rape and sexual assault charges faces further delays over paperwork issues raised by his lawyer, the attorney confirmed Monday.

Norman Effman said a hearing has been scheduled for June 15 on a newly filed challenge.

Weinstein had been scheduled to be transferred as early as next week from the Wende Correctional Facility near Buffalo, where the Hollywood producer has been locked up since last spring after being convicted in New York City of a criminal sex act and third-degree rape.

Los Angeles prosecutors want to bring him to California to be tried on charges of assaulting five women in Los Angeles and Beverly Hills from 2004 to 2013.

Weinstein maintains his innocence and contends that any sexual activity was consensual.

"This is a challenge to California's request for temporary custody, based on our allegation that the paperwork filed by Los Angeles County does not comply with the mandates of the interstate agreement on detainers," Effman said by phone.

Los Angeles prosecutors referred a request for comment to the Erie County District

Attorney's office, which confirmed that a hearing had been set but did not respond to the claim itself.

Weinstein last appeared in Erie County court, virtually, on April 30. At the request of prosecutors, Judge Kenneth Case started a 30-day clock on Weinstein's transfer that could be stopped only by a challenge from Weinstein or an objection from the governor.

Effman said at the time he would file an objection.

An earlier request for a "humanitarian" delay of Weinstein's already pandemic-delayed extradition to attend to his multiple medical issues was denied.

Man learns he fathered child over 30 years ago

DEAR ABBY: When I was 16, my cousin "Mary" came from Georgia to New York to stay with us for the summer. After a short time we began experimenting with French kissing, which led to more things happening between us. Mary went home at the end of summer.

We are both 50 now, and I recently learned she became pregnant back then with a daughter and never married. The DNA indicates she is mine. My question is, how do I explain to my wife that I need to be there for my daughter? I never had any other kids, as my wife can't have children. Please help me.

PAST HISTORY IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR PAST HISTORY: Is your wife aware of the short affair you had with your cousin? If not, start the conversation by telling her about your youthful "adventure." Once she has digested the information, explain that you intend to get to know your daughter. Do NOT tell her the reason is that she couldn't give you children, which would be cruel and unnecessary.

Understand, however, that your "child" is now a grown woman in her mid-30s. She may have no interest in getting to know you because you have been absent all her life. I wonder why you weren't informed about this much sooner and possibly asked to contribute financially to the raising of your child.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 32 years. My husband has been cheating on me for the past three of them. He's an international airline captain who has taken advantage of his "freedom." I recently learned that he paid \$91,000 on an apartment. (He has an inheritance from his father that he has drawn from.)

My therapist suggests that he's a narcissistic personality with volatile ups and downs. My husband refuses to talk to me. He actually walks away from me when I bring up his girlfriend. He talks to her and texts her regularly. The monthly phone bills usually total over \$400. I need help in trying to get him to talk to me before it ends.

TURNING POINT IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR TURNING POINT: Your international airline captain appears to have parachuted out of your marriage. Clearly he isn't interested in trying to save what's left of it. Because he is unwilling to talk to you about it, it's important YOU talk to someone who will. Consult a lawyer about what your options are as a wife of more than three decades. You have my sympathy, and I'm glad you sought help from a therapist.

DEAR ABBY: I've been working from home for a year since COVID began. I have been seriously considering quitting my

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



job or retiring. I'd rather not meet my co-workers only to say goodbye. Would it be wrong to leave without saying goodbye?
LEAVING IT ALL BEHIND

DEAR LEAVING IT: If you prefer not to deal with the sadness of saying goodbye to your co-workers, leave them a message. Explain that you will be leaving your job, but want them to know how much you enjoyed your time working with them. It would be a thoughtful way to exit.

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



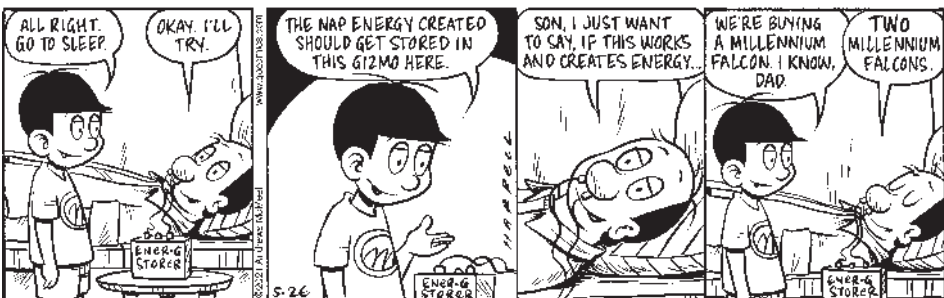
Garfield®

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By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Hardly any
4 Emporium
8 School session
12 Actress Longoria
13 Sci-fi race
14 First-rate
15 Can material
16 Cuddly stuffed animal
18 Aquarium buildup
20 Moray, for one
21 May honorees
24 Brash
28 Frequent campaign promise
32 Abound
33 Belief
34 Fills up
36 Chest muscle
37 Actor Hems-worth
39 Mountainous area of Afghanistan
41 Painter's stand
43 Egyptian river

DOWN

44 "Top Gun" target
46 Playful sea critter
50 "Beetle-juice" director
55 Packed away
56 Green Gables girl
57 "— to differ!"
58 Sunbather's goal
59 Air freshener target
60 Actress Kate
61 PC key

2 Satan's forte
3 Designer Vera
4 Celestial streakers
5 Hearty brew
6 Scepter
7 Ocean motion
8 iPad, e.g.
9 Fair hirer, in ads
10 Genetic letters
11 Debussy's "La —"
17 Longing
19 Embassy VIP
22 Potatoes partner
23 Squelched
25 Seized vehicle
26 Swerve

27 Village People hit
28 Scrabble piece
29 Europe's neighbor
30 Present day?
31 "Felicity" star
35 Tony-winning actress Lea
38 Dues payer
40 Wager
42 Lucy of "Kill Bill"
45 Bleak
47 "Toodlee-oo!"
48 List-ending abbr.
49 Monthly payment
50 Eastern "way"
51 Neither Rep. nor Dem.
52 6 on a phone
53 TV schedule abbr.
54 Not 'neath

Solution time: 23 mins.

M	A	G	I	A	M	O	R	G	P	A
C	M	E	N	N	O	N	E	C	I	L
E	Y	E	S	H	A	C	O	W	L	E
F	A	T	S	A	U	D	R	A		
P	A	P	A	L	E	R	S	E		
C	R	J	M	B	A	N	D	A	N	A
F	T	B	C	A	R	D	S	E	S	T
S	A	L	T	I	N	E	S	B	Y	T
I	O	N	S	G	R	E	A	T		
A	R	C	E	C	S	H	O	E		
R	O	E	E	Y	E	C	P	E	N	E
G	A	Y	H	E	A	M	U	J	P	E
O	R	E	S	A	N	E	S	N	A	P

Yesterday's answer 5-26

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Helena Bonham Carter, 55; Lenny Kravitz, 57; Pam Grier, 72; Stevie Nicks, 73.

Happy Birthday: Check out what's feasible this year. Underestimating the extent of your plans will become an ongoing aggravation. Size up situations before you get going, and modify any plans that have the potential to leave you in a precarious position. Discipline, organization and baby steps will lead to success. Listen to common sense, not pie-in-the-sky ideas. Your numbers are 7, 12, 21, 24, 30, 37, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take better care of your money and documents. Use common sense, and talk through matters of concern with someone you trust to give you sound advice. Strive for stability and a secure future. Be sure to get your money's worth. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do things your way. Make up your mind instead of letting someone else step in and take over. Change begins with you. Size up whatever situation you face, and construct a plan to take you where you want to go. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Strive to advance. Don't take shortcuts when precision and detail are required. Pace yourself and leave nothing to chance, and you will overcome any obstacle you encounter along the way. You'll get a false sense of security from someone you least expect. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Explore new possibilities, but don't buy into something without doing your home-

work. Underlying issues in a bureaucratic situation that is costly and will limit your ability to build a secure base will be confining. Make lowering stress your priority. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take a moment to digest what's going on around you, then make your move. Take the lead, and don't slow down until you are happy with what you achieve. Don't listen to jibber-jabber; determine what you want and make it happen. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Ease into whatever you want to pursue. Size up what you have to work with, then implement changes that are in sync with trends. Refuse to let personal matters slow you down or interfere with what you are trying to accomplish. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Let memory lane be a reminder of experiences and lessons endured. Rise above any meddling or misinformation you encounter. Do your due diligence and head to the finish line. You have no time to waste and a good chance to succeed. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Pick up the pace, and don't stop until you feel you have accomplished what you set out to do. Discipline is necessary, along with vision, innovation and a gut feeling that helps you conquer any fears that stand in your way. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Consider your relationships with others and how well they flow. Question those who try to muddy situations or manipulate what others do, it will be easier to navigate your way to victory. Be wise, and trust and believe in yourself. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be open to creative concepts and doing things differently. An opportunity will need tweaking, but in the end, it will provide you with something concrete. Keep your home and personal life separate from your professional obligations and associates. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take a gander at what's happening globally, and you'll gain perspective regarding your next move. Protecting your home and family will put your mind at ease and lead to a better future. Make life, love and happiness your priorities. Romance is featured. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stop, assess and rethink your strategy. Don't take unnecessary risks personally, professionally or emotionally. Information will be vague and making a good decision will be difficult. Focus on self-improvement where you can make headway. Deep breath in and out. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, entertaining and generous. You are quick-witted and driven.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		8	3						
	6		4						
1				2				9	
3	9	5			8	6	4		
		7						1	
		4						5	
		1	7	3	4	2	6	8	
		2		6		1		4	
		6		9		7		3	

Difficulty Level ★★★

5/26

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	7	5	3	6	2	4	9	1
1	9	3	5	4	8	2	7	6
2	4	6	9	7	1	8	3	5
6	2	1	8	3	4	7	5	9
3	8	7	2	5	9	1	6	4
4	5	9	7	1	6	3	2	8
9	6	2	1	8	3	5	4	7
5	1	4	6	2	7	9	8	3
7	3	8	4	9	5	6	1	2

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SAN FRANCISCO CABLE CARS

Solution: 9 letters

B R A S S S N A I D O T S U C
L E E K T S R E T N E P R A C
A N L T S E S T E E L H L D T
S E W L U A K E M A P I R E W
I M S O S M T R B M F S M D A
S P D E T B M T A O D T E I S
E I R B R N O O R M R O C H I
L R O O A V N W N C A O R C H I
B G P B E R I O A R C Y A L N
A E R T I A N C D E E T N B G
T U U S P R U C E A D W I U T
N O N A I S S U R R I N C O O
R E W O P E S R O H R A L D N
U S N O R T H B E A C H Y D E
T O L S K C A R T O U R I S T

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5/26

Attraction, Barn, Bells, Brass, California, Carpenters, Commuter, Cord, Crew, Custodians, Double-Sided, Downtown, Drop, Embarcadero, Gripmen, History, Horsepower, Hyde, Map, Market, Mechanic, Nob, North Beach, Rear, Ride, Rope, Route, Russian, Service, Sisal, Slot, Spruce, Steel, Task, Tourist, Tracks, Turntables, Urban, Washington

Yesterday's Answer: Subscribe

Treasures 22 through 43 can be purchased online at
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Jokic scores 38, Nuggets beat Blazers to even series



DENVER (AP)—Nikola Jokic and the Denver Nuggets played with an unspoken sense of urgency.

"Because if you're going to talk about it, you're not going to do it," the big man reasoned.

So they just showed it with their enhanced physical style of play.

Jokic scored 38 points to overcome a 3-point shooting barrage from Damian Lillard and the Nuggets evened the first-round series by beating the Portland Trail Blazers 128-109 on Monday night in a chippy Game 2.

"They picked up the aggressive and we did, too," Jokic said. "We met their aggressiveness, maybe even a little bit higher."

Jokic also had eight rebounds and five assists, which was four more than he dished out in Game 1 when the Blazers made sure the big man didn't beat him with his pinpoint passing.

The Nuggets had few answers for Lillard early on as the dynamic playmaker scored 32 of his 42 points in the first half. His eight 3-pointers before intermission tied an NBA playoff record for most in a half. Lillard finished 9 of 16 from 3-point range.

Then, a change of plans at halftime. Denver put the 6-foot-9 Aaron Gordon on the 6-3 Lillard.

"He at least made him make a tough shot," Jokic said. "He did a really good job."

Lillard's already thinking ahead to Game 3 in Portland on Thursday and what he will do to counteract Gordon's defensive tenacity.

"Just moving around more off the ball, getting some more off-ball sets," Lillard said. "Things like that, you can typically get a little bit of space."

It was a physical affair, with four technical fouls being issued (three on Denver, including one on Jokic) and two flagrant-1 calls (CJ McCollum and Carmelo Anthony).

"It was chippy and that's the way it should be," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "I loved it. That's my kind of game right there."

Up by 20 points midway through the fourth quarter, the Nuggets withstood a mini-rally from Portland before Facundo Campazzo sealed the win with a 3-pointer. Monte Morris also had a big block on Lillard.

Michael Porter Jr. found his rhythm and finished with 18 points. He was 3-of-6 from 3-point range after going 1-of-10 from long distance in Game 1.

The usually sure-handed



AP
Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (15) shoots over Portland Trail Blazers center Enes Kanter (11) in the first quarter of Game 2 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series Monday, May 24, 2021, in Denver.

and six assists for the Bucks, who were eliminated by the Heat in the second round of last year's playoffs.

Game 3 of the best-of-seven series is Thursday in Miami.

Milwaukee shot 22 of 53 from 3-point range — including 15 of 29 in the first half — and never trailed while leading by as many as 36 points. The Bucks' 22 3-pointers were their highest total ever in a playoff game.

"I don't think we need to give ourselves a pep talk," said Miami's Bam Adebayo, who scored 16 points. "We're grown men. At the end of the day, we are down 2-0. We know what we've got to do."

Milwaukee's two victories in this series couldn't have looked more different.

The Bucks needed Khris Middleton's tiebreaking jumper with 0.5 seconds left in overtime to pull out a 109-107 victory in Game 1. Milwaukee essentially put away Game 2 in the first quarter when its 3-point attack went from fizzling to sizzling.

"They made a lot of shots, but we didn't make anything difficult on them or take anything away," said Miami's Jimmy Butler, who scored 10 points.

Milwaukee shot 5 of 31 from behind the arc and made its fewest 3-pointers of the season Saturday. The Bucks were 10 of 15 on 3-point attempts in the first quarter alone Monday.

The Bucks led 46-20 at the end of the opening period and 78-51 at the break, posting the highest first-half point total in their playoff history.

"It's just how the game goes," Forbes said. "It's ebbs and flows. Some games you're open a lot more. Some games you aren't. Tonight I think we moved the ball great and had a lot of open shots."

Forbes came off the bench to score 14 points in the first quarter while shooting 5-of-6 overall and 4 of 5 on 3-pointers.

Middleton added 17 points and Pat Connaughton had 15 while shooting 5 of 9 from beyond the arc.

Jrue Holiday's 15 assists were one off the Bucks' playoff record shared by Paul Pressey and Oscar Robertson. Holiday also had 11 points and seven rebounds.

Miami's Dewayne Dedmon had 19 points and nine rebounds. Goran Dragic had 18 points.

Blazers committed 21 turnovers. They also were outscored 54-32 in the paint, 16-4 in fast-break points and 21-4 in second-chance points.

"They outplayed us top to bottom—other than Dame's (42)," Blazers coach Terry Stotts said. "We have to be more aggressive, there's no question."

While Lillard lit it up—and McCollum added 21—the Nuggets kept Anthony (five points) and Anfernee Simons (three) in check. They hurt the Nuggets coming off the bench in the series opener with a combined 32 points.

The game turned physical early in the first, with Jusuf Nurkic and Jokic getting tangled up and Jokic falling to the floor. At the next timeout, the teams started jawing near mid-court, leading to technical on Porter and Portland assistant coach Nate Tibbetts.

The tempers escalated as Anthony pushed Jokic down and drew a flagrant-1 foul. Just when things began to settle down, Morris picked up a technical right after the halftime horn. Lillard shot the free throw to start the second half.

"They just brought energy to the game with that physi-

cality and the deflections and things like that, which once again was expected," Lillard said. "Obviously, we didn't allow that to happen on purpose. But that's what happens."

Bucks 132, Heat 98

In Milwaukee, when the Milwaukee Bucks conducted a roster makeover in the wake of an early playoff exit, the addition of Bryn Forbes didn't earn nearly as much notice as some other moves.

Looks pretty good right now.

Forbes made six 3-pointers on his way to 22 points, and the Milwaukee Bucks routed

the Miami Heat 132-98 on Monday night for a 2-0 lead in their first-round playoff series.

The 27-year-old Forbes spent his first four seasons with San Antonio, but he signed with Milwaukee in free agency in November.

"That was a huge part in me coming here," Forbes said. "You know that there would be these opportunities and we would be in the playoffs. ... It's just great to be in this position, be in the playoffs again and have an opportunity and stage."

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 31 points, 13 rebounds

Utah's Jordan Clarkson wins NBA's 6th man of the year award

Utah's Jordan Clarkson, the only player to come off the bench and score 40 points in a game this season, was announced Monday as the NBA's Sixth Man of the Year.

And his closest competition was from a teammate: Utah's Joe Ingles was second, marking the first time the top two finishers for this award came from the same franchise.

It's the first time a Jazz player has won the award. Clarkson finished with 65 of the 100 first-place votes cast from a global panel of reporters who cover the league and appeared on all but five of the ballots.

"I tried to get him the ball as much as possible so he could win sixth man of the year," Ingles said on TNT, which broadcast the award announcement. "No, I think



AP
Utah Jazz guard Jordan Clarkson (00) is guarded by Sacramento Kings guard Jahmi'us Ramsey (3) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Sacramento, Calif., Sunday, May 16, 2021.

his impact off the bench is something he's embraced and taken pride in."

Ingles got 34 of the remaining 35 first-place votes.

"Joe is a playmaker. He really runs our second unit," Clarkson said.

New York's Derrick Rose, the other first-place votegetter, was third, while Dallas teammates Jalen Brunson and Tim Hardaway Jr. were fourth and fifth, respectively. Voters were asked to select their top three picks for the

award, in order.

Clarkson averaged a career-high 18.4 points this season, coming off the bench in 67 of his 68 appearances.

Clarkson reached 40 points twice this season, finishing with 40 against Philadelphia on Feb. 15 and then getting 41 against Golden State on May 10. He started 136 games over his first three seasons, and has started only five games in the four seasons since—and is now flourishing in the reserve role.

"I just really accepted it and kept rolling," Clarkson said.

In all, 15 players got at least one first-, second- or third-place vote in this season's sixth man balloting. Last year's winner, Montrezl Harrell—then of the Los Angeles Clippers, now of the Los Angeles Lakers—finished sixth.

Rays score 7 in 11th to beat Blue Jays for 11th in row



DUNEDIN, Fla. (AP)—

Francisco Mejía hit a tiebreaking, two-run single during a seven-run burst in the 11th inning and the Tampa Bay Rays won their 11th straight game, outlasting the Toronto Blue Jays 14-8 on Monday.

Tampa Bay moved within one win of the team record for consecutive victories. In 2004, playing as the Devil Rays, they won 12 in a row under manager Lou Piniella. After both teams scored twice in the 10th to make it 7-all, the Rays broke loose.

Mejía's hit came off Joel Payamps (0-2) with the bases loaded. Randy Arozarena doubled home a run, Austin Meadows had an RBI grounder, Manuel Margot knocked in two with a triple and Mike Brosseau added an RBI single against Tim Mayza.

Joey Wendle hit a grand slam as Tampa Bay took a 5-0 lead in the first. The Rays wound up with a four-game sweep and took over sole possession of first place in the AL East.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit two of Toronto's five home runs. The Blue Jays lost their fifth in a row.

Tampa Bay scored twice in the 10th, but Marcus Semien tied it with a two-run homer off Jeffrey Springs (4-1).

Guerrero's second shot was a two-run drive in the eighth off Ryan Thompson to tie it at 5.

Lourdes Gurriel Jr. and Teoscar Hernández also homered for the Blue Jays, who played their final game at TD Ballpark. Toronto dropped seven of 10 on the final homestand and finished 10-11 at its spring training facility.

The Blue Jays will now relocate to Buffalo, New York, as COVID-19 restrictions in Canada prevent them from playing in Toronto.

Brewers 5, Padres 3

In Milwaukee, Brewers closer Josh Hader stopped San Diego's rally in the ninth inning, and the Padres' nine-game winning streak ended with a loss to Milwaukee.

Fresh off sweeping a nine-game homestand, the Padres trailed 5-0 going into the ninth.

Tommy Pham hit a two-run homer off Angel Perdomo. Hader relieved with a runner on first and no outs, and gave up Eric Hosmer's RBI double with one out and then a walk.

Hader settled down to retire Austin Nola on a popup and Ha-Seong Kim on a lineout for his 11th save of the season.

Brandon Woodruff (3-2) gave up three hits over seven innings against a Padres team that had won 12 of 13. He struck out eight and walked none.

Manny Pina hit an early



Tampa Bay Rays' Austin Meadows follows his RBI double off Toronto Blue Jays relief pitcher Anthony Castro during the 10th inning of a baseball game Monday, May 24, 2021, in Dunedin, Fla.

turned to the mound after the delay, allowed two runs and two hits in an inning for the Twins.

Trevor Larnach and Kyle Garlick homered for Minnesota, which had four starters active but not available to start the game due to injury.

The teams opened the three-game series with matching 17-29 records, the worst in the majors. Baltimore has lost seven in a row and 14 of 16.

Tanner Scott (2-3) gave up two runs in the eighth in relief of Orioles starter John Means. César Valdez entered and blew his fourth save in 12 chances.

Mariners 4, Athletics 2

In Oakland, Calif., Kyle Lewis homered and made a diving catch in center field, Yusei Kikuchi pitched six smooth innings before leaving with a possible back injury, and Seattle ended a six-game losing streak by beating Oakland.

Jarred Kelenic also went deep for the Mariners, and Ty France doubled in his return from the injured list. Mitch Haniger added an RBI double.

Mark Canha hit his 10th home run for the Athletics. Frankie Montas (5-4) had a season-high 11 strikeouts in six innings but allowed four runs and six hits.

Kikuchi (2-3) scattered four hits and gave up one run. Keynan Middleton pitched the ninth for his third save.

two-run homer. Avisail Garcia led off the fourth with a homer and Kolten Wong's two-out, two-run single later in the inning finished Blake Snell (1-1), who allowed a season-high five earned runs.

White Sox 5, Cardinals 1

In Chicago, White Sox manager Tony La Russa wound up a winner in his first game against the team that ensured his Hall of Fame induction as Chicago beat St. Louis behind Lance Lynn's arm and Andrew Vaughn's bat.

The victory ended a three-game skid for the AL Central leaders, who were swept at Yankee Stadium after winning 10 of 13. The NL Central-leading Cardinals dropped their second straight.

Lynn (5-1) held the Cardinals hitless for 5 1/3 innings. Vaughn hit a go-ahead, two-run homer off Kwang Hyun Kim (1-2) in the sixth. Tim Anderson added a two-run double against reliever Daniel Ponce de Leon.

After winning a World Series in Oakland, La Russa guided the Cardinals to two World Series championships, three pennants and nine post-season appearances from 1996-2011. He left the team as its all-time leader in wins and games managed.

Indians 6, Tigers 5

In Detroit, Jordan Luplow made a diving catch on Eric Haase's sinking liner to right field with the bases loaded, preserving Cleveland's victory over Detroit.

Luplow, who entered as a defensive replacement an inning earlier, made the clutch grab for the final out to help closer Emmanuel Clase escape with his eighth save in nine chances.

Spencer Turnbull allowed three runs in six innings for the Tigers in his first game since pitching a no-hitter at Seattle last week.

Cleveland scored three unearned runs in the seventh to take a 6-3 lead. Willi Castro hit a two-run homer in the bottom half.

A wild pitch by Bryan Garcia (0-1) put the Indians up 4-3.

Jean Carlos Mejía (1-0) pitched a scoreless sixth for his first major league win.

Marlins 9, Phillies 6

In Miami, Adam Duvall hit a three-run homer and Jesús Aguilar drove in two runs with a double and a single to help Miami beat Philadelphia.

Corey Dickerson hit a tie-breaking two-run triple in the sixth, and Garrett Cooper had two hits and an RBI off the bench for the Marlins. They've won five of their past six to close within one game of the NL East-leading New York Mets.

Miami rookie Trevor Rogers allowed three hits and two runs, one earned, in five innings, which increased his ERA to 1.75. Adam Cimber (1-1) pitched a scoreless sixth, and Dylan Floro retired the only batter he faced for his first career save.

Zach Eflin (2-4) allowed four runs, three earned, in six innings.

Phillies slugger Bryce Harper, in an 0-for-16 slump, was held out for the second game in a row.

Rockies 3, Mets 2

In New York, Austin Gomber pitched two-hit ball through eight innings, Ryan McMahon and Elias Díaz hit second-inning home runs off David Peterson (1-4) and Colorado beat the banged-up New York Mets for just its third win in 20 road

games this year.

Garrett Hampson boosted the lead to 3-0 with an RBI triple in the fourth that sent rookie Johneshwy Fargas crashing into the outfield wall in an unsuccessful attempt to make the catch. Fargas, the Mets' fourth-string center fielder after injuries to Brandon Nimmo, Kevin Pillar and Albert Almora Jr., sprained the AC joint in his left shoulder.

NL East-leading New York already had a major league-high 16 players on the injured list and said right-hander Jordan Yamamoto was set to be added on Tuesday.

Gomber (3-4) gave up Jonathan Villar's single leading off the fourth and James McCann's two-out homer in

the seventh. Pitching into the ninth inning for the first time, he allowed pinch-hitter Brandon Drury's first Mets home run leading off and Patrick Mazeika's single.

Carlos Estévez got three straight outs for his second save.

Twins 8, Orioles 3

In Minneapolis, Mitch Garver hit a two-run double and short-handed Minnesota used a six-run eighth inning to beat Baltimore.

DJ Stewart hit a two-run homer for a 3-2 Orioles lead as the first batter following a 45-minute rain delay in the eighth inning. But the Twins rallied with six straight two-out hits in the bottom half.

Jorge Alcalá (1-1), who re-

PGA apologizes to Mickelson, Koepka for fans on final hole

KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C. (AP)—PGA of America CEO Seth Waugh has apologized to winner Phil Mickelson and Brooks Koepka for fans rushing onto the 18th hole at the PGA Championship on Sunday.

After Mickelson's approach landed on the 18th green, spectators rushed past the ropes, marshals and security at the Ocean Course, quickly swarming the competitors as they played the 72nd hole.

Waugh said Monday the organization regretted that the scene "made two players and their caddies feel vulnerable."

Waugh's statement, released on social media, said the charge came from "a moment of high elation and pent-up emotion by spectators" and overwhelmed security.

The 50-year-old Mickelson finished off the victory, becoming the oldest player to win a major title. Koepka



Phil Mickelson tries to get through the crowd during the final round at the PGA Championship golf tournament on the Ocean Course, Sunday, May 23, 2021, in Kiawah Island, S.C.

was tied for second with Louis Oosthuizen.

Mickelson said the scene "was a little bit unnerving, but it was exceptionally awesome, too."

Koepka said his surgically repaired right knee got hit by people as he tried to break through the crowd.

Koepka wondered if

someone purposely tried to hurt him. "I don't know, it felt somebody tried to ..." he said, cutting off his thought. "I don't know what the deal was, but it's what it is."

Waugh said player safety is a chief goal and he was glad order was restored. Fans circled the final green and celebrated when Mickelson finished off the win.

Green Bay' Rodgers doesn't attend Packers' 1st day of OTAs

Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers wasn't present for the first day of organized team activities Monday, and his future with the team remains uncertain.

Rodgers confirmed in an ESPN interview that he wasn't at Monday's session. Although these OTAs are voluntary, Rodgers generally has participated in them in the past. Rodgers' decision to stay away comes amid reports that the reigning MVP wants out of Green Bay, where he has spent his entire NFL career. Rodgers was noncommittal about his future during his ESPN interview, but did detail some of his frustrations.

"I think sometimes people forget what really makes an organization," Rodgers said. "History is important, the legacy of so many people who've come before you. But the people, that's the most important thing. People make an organization. People make a business, and sometimes that gets forgotten. Culture is built brick by brick, the foundation of it by the people, not by the organization, not by the building, not by the corporation. It's built by the people."

ESPN reported in the hours before the draft that the three-time MVP doesn't want to return to the Packers. Later that week, Packers CEO Mark Murphy wrote in a column posted on the Packers' website that the team "is very much aware" of Rodgers' concerns and that "this is an issue that



In this Jan. 3, 2021, file photo, Green Bay Packers head coach Matt LaFleur, left, talks to Aaron Rodgers during the second half of an NFL football game against the Chicago Bears in Chicago.

earlier this month during the team's rookie minicamp. "I know he knows that and, you know, we'll continue to work at it each and every day."

Rodgers' long-term future has been a subject of major speculation across the NFL ever since the Packers traded up four spots in the first round to select Utah State quarterback Jordan Love with the 26th overall pick in the 2020 draft.

The Packers didn't notify Rodgers beforehand about their plans to select a quarterback in the first round. Rodgers said less than a month later that the Packers' decision to

we have been working on for several months."

Murphy acknowledged in his column that he, general manager Brian Gutekunst and coach Matt LaFleur all had

visited Rodgers on a number of occasions during this off-season.

Gutekunst has said the team has no plans to trade Rodgers, who has three years remaining

on his contract. Packers officials have said they want to keep Rodgers in Green Bay in 2021 and beyond.

"We want him back in the worst way," LaFleur said

draft Love surprised him and complicated his hopes of finishing his career in Green Bay.

"With my situation, look it's never been about the draft pick, picking Jordan," Rodgers told ESPN. "I love Jordan. He's a great kid, a lot of fun to work together. Love the coaching staff, love my teammates, love the fan base in Green Bay. An incredible 16 years.

"It's just kind of about a philosophy and maybe forgetting that it is about the people that make the thing go. It's about character, it's about culture, it's about doing things the right way. A lot of this was put in motion last year and the wrench was just kind of thrown into it when I won MVP and played the way I played last year. This is just kind of, I think, a spill-out of all that. But it is about the people, and that's the most important thing." (AP)

Japan says US travel warning for virus won't hurt Olympians

TOKYO (AP) — The Japanese government Tuesday was quick to deny a U.S. warning for Americans to avoid traveling to Japan would have an impact on Olympians wanting to compete in the postponed Tokyo Games.

U.S. officials cited a surge in coronavirus cases in Japan caused by virus variants that may even be risks to vaccinated people. They didn't ban Americans from visiting Japan, but the warnings could affect insurance rates and whether Olympic athletes and other participants decide to join the Games that begin July 23. Most metro areas in Japan

are under a state of emergency and expected to remain so through mid-June because of rising serious COVID-19 cases that are putting pressure on the country's medical care systems. That raises concern about how the country could cope with the arrival of tens of thousands of Olympic participants if its hospitals remain stressed and little of its population is vaccinated.

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato told a regular news conference Tuesday that the U.S. warning does not prohibit essential travel and Japan believes the U.S. support for Tokyo's effort to hold the Olympics is unchanged.

"We believe there is no change to the U.S. position supporting the Japanese government's determination to achieve the Games," Kato said, adding that Washington has told Tokyo the travel warning is not related to participation of the U.S. Olymp-

pic team.

The United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee said it still anticipates American athletes will be able to safely compete at the Tokyo Games.

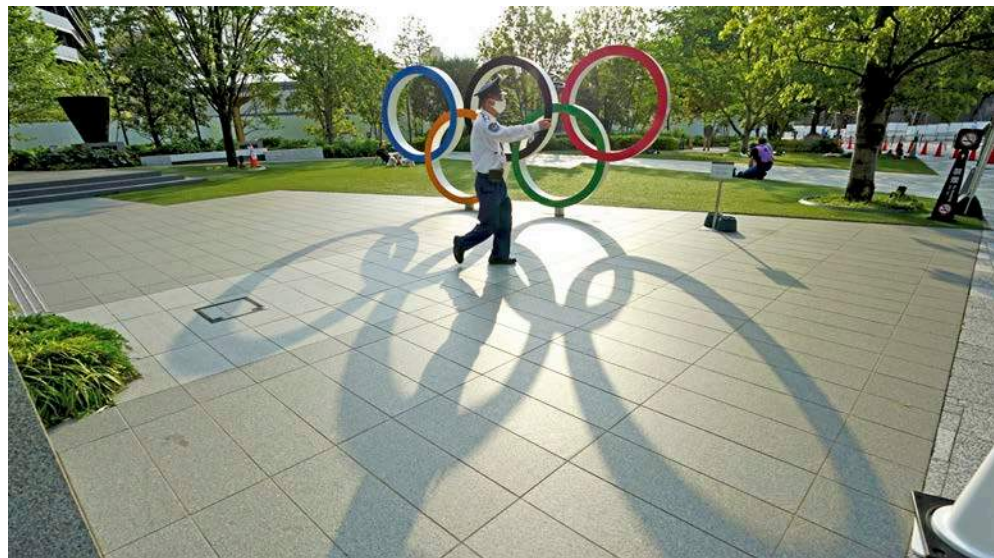
Fans coming from abroad were banned from the Tokyo Olympics months ago, but athletes, families, sporting officials from around the world

and other stakeholders still amount to a mass influx of international travelers. The Japanese public in opinion surveys have expressed opposition to holding the Games out of safety concerns while most people will not be vaccinated.

The U.S. warning from the Atlanta-based Centers for Dis-

ease Control and Prevention said: "Because of the current situation in Japan even fully vaccinated travelers may be at risk for getting and spreading COVID-19 variants and should avoid all travel to Japan."

The State Department's warning was more blunt. "Do not travel to Japan due to COVID-19," it said.



A security guard wearing a protective mask to help curb the spread of the coronavirus walks in front of the Olympic Rings on May 9, 2021, in Tokyo.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	30	19	.612	—
Boston	29	19	.604	½
New York	28	19	.596	1
Toronto	23	23	.500	5½
Baltimore	17	30	.362	12

Central Division

Chicago	27	19	.587	—
Cleveland	25	20	.556	1½
Kansas City	22	23	.489	4½
Detroit	18	29	.383	9½
Minnesota	18	29	.383	9½

West Division

Oakland	28	21	.571	—
Houston	26	21	.553	1
Seattle	22	26	.458	5½
Texas	22	27	.449	6
Los Angeles	20	27	.426	7

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	21	20	.512	—
Atlanta	23	24	.489	1
Miami	23	24	.489	1
Philadelphia	23	25	.479	1½
Washington	20	23	.465	2

Central Division

St. Louis	26	21	.553	—
Chicago	24	22	.522	1½
Milwaukee	24	23	.511	2
Cincinnati	20	25	.444	5
Pittsburgh	18	28	.391	7½

West Division

San Diego	30	18	.625	—
Los Angeles	29	18	.617	½
San Francisco	28	19	.596	1½
Colorado	19	29	.396	11
Arizona	18	30	.375	12

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CNMI

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known as paddling and also triathlon," he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, The Northern Marianas has pledged \$4 million to host the Mini Games, which will be held on June 17-25, 2022.

The Mini Games are a multi-sport event governed by the Pacific Games Committee and are as a scaled-down version of the Pacific Games, held every alternating four years.

The PGC is also supporting the event financially, and fundraising for cash and in-kind support will also be conducted.

The CNMI 2022 Mini Games will include athletics, badminton, baseball, golf, beach volleyball, tennis, triathlon, and va'a (outrigger canoe) at various venues around Saipan.

It was supposed to be held this year, but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

GAMES

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lifting both nationally and internationally. In addition, they both are certified coaches with USA Weightlifting.

"CNMI Weightlifting is pleased to announce the selection of national coaches David Barnhouse and Antonette Labausa. Both Barnhouse and Labausa are experienced athletes, as well as coaches with certification from USA Weightlifting, the national governing body overseeing the sport of weightlifting in the United States," said Davis.

The pair will serve in these positions until December 2022.

In a short interview with Barnhouse, the undefeated champion in the Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament, he said that he is excited for the new responsibility that was bestowed upon him.

"I'm excited to be taking on this role and the responsibilities that come with it. Recruiting starts now. Anyone interested can contact me at david.barnhouse@gmail.com," he said.

Saipan Tribune tried to reach out to Labausa but as of 6pm press time, she had yet to respond.

With the announcement of the

national coaches, the selection process for the national team will commence immediately.

Anyone interested in competing in weightlifting for the CNMI should contact Barnhouse or Labausa as soon as possible.

Everyone interested in competing in weightlifting at the Pacific Mini Games must be a member in good standing with CNMI Weightlifting, must compete in at least two local level competitions, must be at least 15 years old, must produce a passport and/or proof of residency at the time of weigh-in at the Pacific Mini Games, and must be selected

to the national team.

For more information, interested participants can also contact Barnhouse at 789-7636 and Labausa can be contacted at 285-2286.

The Pacific Mini Games 2022 in the Northern Marianas will hold an official launch ceremony on June 17, 2021, to begin the one-year countdown to the Games. It is expected to draw up over 1,000 athletes from across the Pacific.

The ceremony will be led by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and will be held at 4:30pm at the Oleai Sports Complex, the venue for several of the events.



Jokic scores 38,
Nuggets beat Blazers
to even series

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Green Bay' Rodgers
doesn't attend Packers'
1st day of OTAs

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20 WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The 2022 Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee expects to complete all the needed renovations to the venues that will be utilized during the 2022 Pacific Mini Games by December.

In an interview with Ben Babauta, Mini Games Organizing committee CEO, he said the committee, in conjunction with the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, has already started the needed preparations for the venues and expects the completion of this venues by December, January at the latest.

Babauta explained that minor work to some of the facilities in preparation of the Mini Games have started, however, actual work like construction will begin around June with the target completion date in December.

"Actual work may commence as early as probably June or July and should be



NORTHERN MARIANAS
PACIFIC MINI GAMES
2022

done no later than December. If anything will be early January to make sure the venues are game ready," he said.

"So [preparations are] ongoing. [We've been working really hard] with [governor's authorized representative] Patrick Guerrero, along with our architect and engineering firms that are facilitating the Oleai Sports Complex and the other venues," Babauta added.

Some of the needed renovations include air-conditioning, resurfacing, and various repairs and renovations.

"We'll be air-conditioning the entire gym, resurfacing, the track and field, repairing and renovating the baseball field along with the smaller



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
As part of the renovation plans for the upcoming 2022 Pacific Mini Games, the Oleai Track and Field will be fully resurfaced.

'CNMI to be Mini Games-ready by December'

field at the back, and just the overall ambient environment. For the other venues such as the American Memorial Park

tennis court, the Park Service is assisting us in resurfacing the tennis court. Crowne Plaza (formerly Fiesta Resort & Spa

Saipan) will be used for the beach volleyball, [Pacific Islands Club Saipan) will also help for tennis, and of course,

across the street, Kili Beach will be hosting va'a, also

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KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
David Barnhouse is seen here competing during the Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe last March.

Weightlifting names coaches for Mini Games

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

CNMI Weightlifting has appointed David Barnhouse and Antonette Labausa as its national coaches for the upcoming Pacific Mini Games that the CNMI is set to host on June 2022.

According to CNMI Weightlifting president John Davis, Barnhouse and Labausa were selected as the national coaches for their extensive experience in weight-

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Antonette Labausa is seen here competing during the Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe last March.

Rollers receive donation of 30 basketballs

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Rollers Basketball Association received a large donation of 20 basketballs from Rep. Celina Babauta (D-Saipan) and former CNMI representative Franklin Babauta.

According to RBA head coach Joe Diaz, two weeks ago, Celina and Franklin Babauta gave the association a donation of 30 Molten basketballs, 15 size 6 Molten balls which are typically women's basketballs, 15 size

7 men's basketballs, and two sets of cones.

When asked about how the donation would benefit the club, Diaz said it gives the children resources to hone their skills.

"Part of basketball is we need balls because what do you do on the court, you don't just run, you have to learn to dribble. We aim to activate these skills, and help these kids progress at a young age," he said.

Diaz said although the en-



tire RBA will benefit from the donation, it will be more beneficial to those children in the younger age groups of RBA.

"In our youth development, or our young age group, we have 14U, 12U, and 10U and this donation would really help them with their skill levels. And as we continue on, every month, we have a lot of children coming in to join our club, ranging from 10U to 14U, they really need these basketballs," he said.



The Rollers Basketball Association received a large donation of 20 basketballs from Rep. Celina Babauta (D-Saipan) and former CNMI representative Franklin Babauta.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO